Christian Courier

A REFORMED WEEKLY, formerly known as **Calvinist Contact**

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Invisible asylums still exist for mentally ill

Volunteers seem more comfortable talking to prisoners, says chaplain

Irene Bom

WHITBY, Ont. — Insane asylums may be gone, but the "asylum concept" often is not, according to a chaplain at the psychiatric hospital in this town. Society still makes people with a mental illness like schizophrenia or manic depression feel isolated, says Markus Lise.

"Trying to find people to volunteer at the psychiatric hospital is like pulling teeth," says Lise, also an associate pastor at Rehoboth Christian Reformed Church in Bowmanville, Ont.

"Finding volunteers for the general hospital, even jails, is easier," he notes. "People would seem to be more comfortable talking to someone behind bars. Some people still think mental illness is contagious."

Lise and other mental health workers reflected on these attitudes during National Mental Health Week last week.

Different reactions

Rudy De Vries runs Homestead, a short-term home in Hamilton that helps those with mental illnesses learn life skills. He says he can't believe how different physical and mental illnesses are in the minds of many people. "When someone gets cancer, the community says, That's sad. But when someone gets schizophrenia, people say the person is crazy and needs to be put into an institution," he says.

De Vries does not make the comparison easily. "I sat at the bedside of my father when he was dying from cancer and saw his agony. But compare that to the agony of a 15-year-old who gets schizophrenia and all of a sudden loses control over his life."

De Vries says the stigma and low profile of mental illness translates into lower funding. He claims that's unfair because mental illnesses are the costliest illnesses to diagnose and treat.

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PHOTO BARB MERSEREAU

Friendship Centre visitors enjoy an outing.

Alberta Badlands dress up as Holy Land

John Pater

EDMONTON — The Drumheller Badlands in southeastern Alberta, site of world renowned dinosaur fossils, will soon be the site of another old, old story — the story of Jesus. A Passion play, recounting the life of Jesus, will be performed there this summer.

According to organizers, the Badlands are a perfect setting to tell Christ's story. "The Badlands themselves look very much topographically like Israel," says LaVerne Erickson, president of the Canadian Badlands Passion Play Society. "The hills and the hoodoos and the formations almost match perfectly with a map of Palestine."

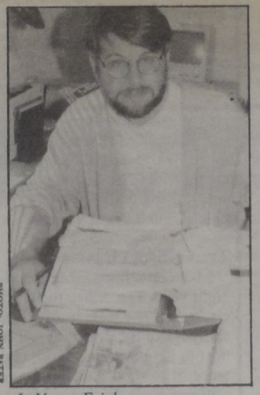

PHOTO JOHN PATER

LaVerne Erickson

Erickson says a two-hour walk around the area where they're staging the play would be like taking a mini-tour of the Holy Land; what's missing, of course, are the historic buildings, shrines, and other icons of the biblical narrative. By staging a passion play, Erickson hopes to fill that gap.

Fulfilling a dream

The idea of staging a play about Christ in that area was first bandied about 30 years ago. But it took till now for it to come to fruition. Erickson is executive director of a Christian theatre school in the area, the Rosebud School of the Arts.

A few years ago, Erickson resurrected the idea of the Passion play. A society was formed, and work began to develop the dream. A quarter of a million dollars later, and relying on the work of several hundred volunteers, the first full-fledged Canadian Passion play is about to become reality.

Erickson says this play is being fashioned somewhat after the world famous Passion play conducted at Oberammergau, Germany. Thousands of people take in that event every year. The plans are to make the Badland play an annual event as well. Seating for 2,000 people has been set up in a natural amphitheatre on a site just outside of Drumheller.

The stage area is about the size of a city block; the set itself reflects period architecture. A large cast, 170 people at last count, will move in, out and around the set. And, says Erickson, because of the perfect natural acoustics, actors will be able to speak and be heard without using artificial amplification. A mass choir of 300 voices will help tell the story.

Divisions around Jesus

"The script (itself) is pretty minimal," says Erickson. He says they've relied almost exclusively on the biblical narrative — on the four Gospels — to tell the story.

He says the first half of the three-hour play will recount Jesus' three-year ministry from the time of his baptism by John. The second half will detail the week before Jesus' death. "The audience watching will see how people's lives are changed as they're relating to Jesus," he says, "and how his life creates divisions; some people are in favor of him and others want him destroyed."

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'We only open our doors'

Irene Bom

HAMILTON, Ont. — The founder of the first Friendship Centre for the mentally ill insists she and her team of volunteers don't do much.

"All we do is open our doors, really," says Barb Mersereau, a former freelance journalist whose son has schizophrenia.

The 15 to 40 people who drop in for lunch five days a week might disagree with her. "They give their time for nothing. They talk to you. And if you say you don't want to talk with them, they go to someone else," was the way that Kevin, 31, recently described the program to the *United Church Observer.*

That pretty much sums up the aim of the volunteers.

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Mental illness low on priority list for churches

PHOTO COURTESY HOMESTEAD

Homestead residents get creative with dough art.

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He says a good sign is that the Reformed community is "becoming more comfortable" with getting help from provincial institutions, instead of "shipping people over to Pine Rest," a Reformed Christian mental health centre in Grand Rapids, Mich.

That brings mental illness in line with other ailments and also makes visits easier for other members of their churches.

But he admits that volunteering to the mentally ill close by is not easy. "They are often lonely, so they may phone too often and start 'leeching.' And that is draining — you need to be trained for that."

On the positive side of change, Homestead residents just received the go-ahead to be a custodial team for Melrose United Church across the street. But on the down side, De Vries admits it took him 15 years to get that breakthrough.

Lag behind

Attitudes about mental health do not seem to have kept pace with those surrounding counselling and emotional health. Al Dreise, head of Salem Christian Counselling in Hamilton, Ont., is drafting a manual telling "faith communities" — including churches, synagogues and mosques — how they can provide spiritual care to the mentally ill.

In a recent report on his research he wrote, "My assessment at this point is that other mental health issues, such as abuse awareness and response, take priority over developing care directives and activities for persons and families with mental health difficulties."

This, not that

**Mentally ill:* The brain, like any other organ, can get diseased. Most often a chemical imbalance that is treated with medication.

**Developmentally handicapped*: Reduced mental abilities from birth or after serious seizures.

**Emotionally disturbed:* Psychological malfunction treated with counselling.

Jews left us no graven images

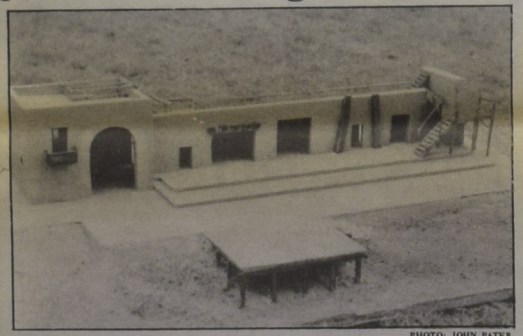

PHOTO: JOHN PATER

Model of set for Canadian Badlands Passion Play.

...continued from p.1

That main premise of the story will not come across merely by the words that are uttered, says Daniel VanHeyst, set and costume designer for this production. VanHeyst is a professional theatre designer who lives in Edmonton. He teaches drama part time at The King's University College and attends West End Christian Reformed Church.

VanHeyst says the actors' clothing and the layout of the set are crucial elements in the telling of the story. "Jesus made contact with individuals and they were changed by that encounter," he says. And so, costumes, colors and textures will change as Christ comes into people's lives.

No Jewish pics

And although the script was not derived from sources other than the Scriptures, VanHeyst says he went to great lengths to research the clothing and styles of the first century. He says it wasn't easy, because although there are lots of Roman and Greek records of the time, "the Jews left no graven images of themselves."

VanHeyst says he also had to balance the Sunday School images most of us have of the people of Jesus' day and what we will accept as legitimate first century people.

LaVerne Erickson stresses that although there is some professional input, for the most part this is an "all volunteer, massive community undertaking." He says tour buses and companies are already booking spaces, but they are warned that "this is a trial run folks."

VanHeyst says what he finds interesting and exciting about this project is that, for the most part, both those involved and those who ultimately will watch are Christians. Rehearsals will run evenings and weekends during the month of June. Production dates are slated for July 1, 2, 3, 9 and 10.

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'Travelling circus' offers acceptance

...continued from p. 1

"Basically, what we have to offer is an attitude of acceptance. We started out in 1986 with the idea of a creative arts centre. But then we found that people would rather just play cards, drink coffee and chat," says Mersereau, a member of St. Giles United Church.

Travelling circus

Mersereau introduced the idea in her church one day a week eight years ago. Since then it has become "a bit of a travelling circus," as she calls it. Five United, Presbyterian and Anglican churches in the downtown core take one turn a week playing host to the program. Those churches are within walking distance of the boarding houses occupied by many people with schizophrenia discharged from institutions.

The rotation gave the program one-up on a drop-in run by the local mental health association, which was becoming a hangout for drug dealers (that association has since taken cues from Frienship and is running rotating evening drop-ins). It also prevents volunteer burnout.

"They like the fact that we're not paid to spend time with them. They already get enough therapy, but not a lot of anything else," says Mersereau.

Most of the volunteers stay for years, she adds. "They tend to fall away fairly quickly if they're not doing it out of love."

Mersereau recently wrote a book to urge other cities to follow her lead. For a copy of *How to Start a Friendship Centre* call her at (905) 383-5673.

News

Canadian activists march to end 'getting away with murder'

VANIER, Ont. (AI) — The reality of human rights abuses once again became clear in Canada on Saturday, April 16. Hundreds of members of the Canadian section of Amnesty International revived the memory of those who have been killed for political reasons or who have "disappeared" through the actions of government-backed groups or opposition forces.

Amnesty International groups from Victoria to Halifax focused public attention on the worldwide problem that now poses the greatest threat to human rights. There were marches, speeches and special events throughout the country and the stories of specific individuals were poignantly told.

The National Day of Presence in Canada was part of an international campaign by Amnesty International that began in October 1993 to stop political killings and "disappearances." *Getting Away With Murder*, a major report issued when the campaign began, asserts that these human rights abuses occur in more than 60 countries.

"Increasingly governments are openly and brazenly using the power of the state to gun down or abduct their opponents," says Roger Clark, secretary general of Amnesty's Canadian Section. "And governments are not alone," notes Clark. "Armed opposition groups are involved in political killings and hostage taking."

"Political killings and 'disappearances' are part of a changing pattern of repression, in which governments are imprisoning fewer people and killing more; that must be stopped," asserts Clark.

Members of Amnesty International publicly presented to Canadians the details of the lives behind the lies that governments and opposition groups have presented to

Million more like these

The National Day of Presence focused on six particular cases, just a few examples of the widespread problem.

Najah Abu Dalal, 34, a mother of six children, lived in Nasayrut refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. On April 21, 1993, while speaking to a friend in the courtyard of her house, she was shot without warning by an Israeli soldier. She died five days later.

"Mirsada," a 16-year-old Bosnian Muslim woman, was detained along with her sister and a friend, by Serbian paramilitaries in June 1992. Her sister was questioned and raped. "Mirsada" has "disappeared."

Domingos Seguardo, 28, was one of more than 200 people killed by Indonesian soldiers in a peaceful demonstration for independence in East Timor in November 1991.

Roberto Carlos da Costa, 18, a street youth from Sao Paulo "disappeared" in September 1992 after he denounced the military police for torture during an earlier detention.

A retired government official, Camillo Odongi Loyuk, in his 50s, was arrested in Khartoum, Sudan, on August 1, 1992. He was tortured to death in detention.

And Maria Rumalda Camey, 23, married with two children, was abducted by heavily armed men who are believed to be members of the Guatemalan military on August 15, 1989. Camey has "disappeared."

On April 16, at marches and meetings, the details of these and other examples of political killings and "disappearances" were given new meaning for Canadians. Amnesty urged all Canadians to help it stop these human rights abuses.

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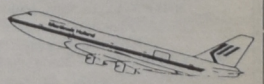

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Editorial

Jesus ascended peaceably with outstretched hands

If we had been in the vicinity of Bethany, just east of Jerusalem, at the time when Jesus left the earth, we might have seen a person drift slowly up to the clouds with his hands lifted up. It would not have been a frightening picture or a noisy scene, nothing like a Cape Kennedy take-off with a countdown, a burst of heat and light and a thunderous roar of engines to the applause of onlookers.

If we hadn't looked up at the right time, we would have missed it.

That's amazing, isn't it? The very simplicity of the event would have driven a journalist mad. What kind of headline can you invent to let people know that this was a pivotal development in world affairs? Would the following do: "Europe and Asia mourn departure of favored son," "Ancient world stunned by mega-ascension!" "Jesus quits earth, Roman empire grinds to halt"?

None of these fit the occasion of the Ascension. Jesus simply walked his disciples a few miles east of Jerusalem, giving them his last instructions about their work. Then he lifted his hands and blessed them. That part of it was no more spectacular than what you see every Sunday when the pastor gives the benediction.

And *while* he was blessing them, he was taken up into heaven. That's it. Try to get *that* on the front page of the *Roman Gazette*.

A benevolent and priestly rule

Why the modest departure? Because the Ascension marks the beginning of Jesus' "rule of reconciliation." Its main characteristic for believers is the bringing of peace. Hence the gentle nature of Jesus' departure — a quiet rising with outstretched hands: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you (John 14:27).

The kingdom which Jesus ushers in is not of this world where rule is political, uncertain and in need of ceremony and power symbols. The rule that Jesus initiates is spiritual. No earthly fanfare needed or wanted.

It all fits the pattern of the *priestly* character of the divine rescue mission. When Jesus came to earth in human flesh, he made himself a sacrifical lamb. When he left he was on the other side of the knife and altar, offering the sacrifice to God on our behalf.

While Jesus' work on earth represents the sacrifical part of his mission, his work in heaven represents the administrative part of redemption. Administration is a peaceful affair.

The great Expulsion

But there is a violent side to the Ascension, of course. Just ask Satan, who had to deal with the iron sceptre in Jesus' hands. Rest assured that Satan and his cohorts understood the significance of the Ascension. They needed no media campaign to be convinced. Revelation 12 gives us the full picture. After the male child, "who will rule all the nations with an iron sceptre" was "snatched up to God and to his throne ... there was war in heaven. The great dragon was hurled ... to the earth and his angels with him."

The ascension of Christ presents humankind with a dilemma: choosing between an iron sceptre and the outstretched hands of blessing. Not a very difficult choice? That all depends on whether you appreciate meekness. It depends on whether you want to give up on the strange allure of sin. And ultimately, it depends on whether you like high priests.

A tranquil farewell

But for Jesus' disciples the Ascension was a quiet affair. And for all followers of Jesus throughout the centuries "those who overcame the accuser by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony..., who did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death" (Rev. 12:11), there is the soothing picture of an ascending Jesus with outstretched hands.

A high priest, according to Hebrews 5:2, is a person who is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and go astray. The ascending Christ is like that for those who trust him.

No wonder the Ascension could have been so easily missed had we been in the vicinity. It was such an irenic "going up." The last the disciples saw was their beloved master with outstretched hands, blessing them: *Pax vobiscum.* **BW**

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I could tell by your accent

I was eating my lunch outside the local library the other day. Next to me on the bench were two men talking about car problems.

"I will have to take my car to the garage," the one said. The way he said it — and I'm not sure whether it was the accent, the intonation or both — was as if I heard CC's editorial board member Anne Hutten speaking.

Just on a hunch I asked him, "Are you from Nova Scotia?"

"Yes," he answered, somewhat surprised. "But I left Nova Scotia about 16 years ago."

"I could tell by your accent," I said.

"That's funny," the second guy said. "I don't hear an accent at all."

That didn't surprise me, because I didn't hear the accent anymore either after that. It was just that one phrase that touched off a note of recognition.

The little episode made me wonder. I consider myself a citizen of the kingdom of heaven by virtue of rebirth. That should leave a mark on me. People who have some acqaintance with Christianity or other Christians should be able to tell from how I speak, either through words or deeds, whether I am a Christian. I don't have to be talking about God or Jesus at the time, but they should be able to detect a certain "righteousness" accent.

I wonder: Do they? It would be so nice to have someone say, "You must be from the kingdom of heaven. Thy speech betrayeth thee." **BW**

The most delicious ice cream sundae imaginable

"Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last...." (1 Corinthians 9:25a).

"O Mom, you'd think they'd just invented the game, the way you carry on." Try as she might, my teenage daughter who is always on guard against eccentric behavior (especially her mother's), couldn't curb my enthusiasm. The possibility of winning a game was all I talked about. I was a woman obsessed.

Our neighbors, Jack and Jill, had just mounted a basketball net on their garage. Jill had challenged me to win a game of "21." She was an expert. She had been on her high school basketball team 18 years ago. According to my hairdresser, who had attended school with her, five-foot-three-inch Jill was an alumnae champ.

My own experience on the basketball court had happened 27 years back when I took a few weeks of mandatory basketball in physical education class. I hadn't even heard of "21."

The rules of the game are simple. You chalk up two points for a successful free throw from a designated line and one point for netting the ball on a rebound. A one-pointer gets you to the free throw line. Twenty-one points wins the game.

It'll never happen

Now Jill was so skilled at tossing the ball through the hoop and I was so inept that she offered me an ice cream sundae at the Dairy Queen should I ever win a game. She was desperate for some competition.

For a week I spent every spare minute on Jill's driveway setting shots. I definitely wanted that ice cream sundae — the crown that wouldn't last.

"Put more arc on your throw," advised Jill. I listened and immediately saw improvement. Some of my shots even swhooshed or dropped into the net without touching the wire hoop.

"OK, that's all the hints I'm giving you," Jill vowed.

Jill still won every game. I simply didn't know how to get the one-pointers, so there was no chance to try my high-arching free throws.

"Use the backboard," suggested Jill.

I tried, but rather than landing in the net, my ball always bounced off the backboard right out of the court.

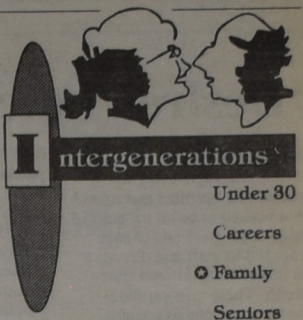
"Roll the ball off your fingertips," she instructed.

It worked. Our games were getting closer — 21 to 15.

Then one fine day after accumulated hours of concentrated practice at the expense of housework and yard work, the score was 20 to 17 for Jill. I had the ball at the free throw line. Then a remarkable thing happened. I looped the ball up and through the hoop, not just once, but twice, to win the game.

I whooped and hollered. My jubilation literally lasted for days. I told everyone about my win whether they were interested or not. The crowning glory, the sundae, was good too. It was vanilla ice cream covered in chocolate fudge sauce and sprinkled with nuts.

Now it seems to me that if I could direct that sort of passionate behavior to things above — and I mean higher than a basketball net — I might win souls for Christ. If I live and breathe and become obsessed with the gospel; if I practise daily witnessing for Christ; if I implement the lessons learned at church; if I pray sincerely and study the Bible diligently, the Lord could surely use me beyond my wildest expectations. And, the crown would be more delicious than any ice cream sundae imaginable.



Marian den Boer

"...but we do it to get a crown that will last forever" (1 Cor. 9:25b).

Marian den Boer can be found playing "21" on Burrwood Drive in Hamilton, Ont., where she lives with her husband and five children.

Compassion starts with speaking the truth

The critics of Dr. James De Jong's warning against the idea that the homosexual lifestyle is compatible with the Christian life (CC April 1) were too hasty in faulting the author for lacking compassion (CC April 22). I agree with De Jong's warning against joining gay and lesbian support groups such as the Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Church (FMCC).

George Vandervelde writes that many have joined the FMCC "because there was nowhere else for Christians to turn." He is right, of course. Homosexuals who insist that their sexual practices are compatible with the Word of God find support for that position only in churches such as the FMCC. That is exactly the reason why De Jong's warning needs to be heard.

What kind of support?

No one can argue against support groups in which Christians, be they heterosexual or homosexual, are helped and encouraged to fight against their sinful passions and habits — none of us is beyond the need for such help. Fortunately, many churches are becoming aware that there are homosexual brothers and sisters who need and look for support that will help them lead obedient and chaste lives.

There are excellent support groups especially geared to the needs of gay and lesbian people, such as New Directions. Reading the testimonies of fellow Christians who have found help in this organization is a wonderful reminder of Christ's power to redeem our lives. De Jong's criticism was not directed against this type of support group, but he rightfully warned us about groups that support homosexuals in their sexual practices.

De Jong was also criticized for speaking out against homosexuals who "come out of the closet with public fanfare." The reference is obviously not to struggling brothers and sisters who have made themselves known to us, but to those who pride themselves on their "alternative" lifestyle and who insist that this be accepted as normal.

'Sin no more'

I wonder whether the critics were not too anxious to accuse Dr. De Jong of lacking compassion. I regret that they missed the main point of De Jong's timely and forthright Christian witness. To be compassionate means in the first place to speak the truth. The truth and Good News is that Christ indeed forgives, but he also tells sinners, *all of us*, to "go and sin no more."

It's too bad that even in the Reformed community, which prides itself on loyalty to the Scriptures, it is increasingly difficult to discuss sensitive topics such as this one in a way that doesn't immediately provoke slings and arrows. I applaud De Jong's courage in tackling this dangerous and controversial topic.

The need for good literature on this topic is urgent. Let me suggest one excellent study produced by Little Trinity Anglican Church in Toronto called "Homosexuality: A Position Paper." It is available for $5.00 from this church, 425 King Street East, Toronto, ON M5A 1L3.

Harry Antonides
Willowdale, Ont.

Address real questions

Tom Harpur, former religion editor of the *Toronto Star*, reminded a group of Christian journalists meeting at the 1994 Canadian Church Press Convention in April that Christians need to have an answering theology (the concept comes from theologian Paul Tillich). Churches and Christians must answer the real questions that people in our society ask, said Harpur.

The advice seemed somewhat superfluous were it not for the fact that Christian leaders have a tendency to address their own questions rather than those of most other people around them.

Harpur told his audience how in the '60s he became host of a radio open-line show in Richmond Hill, Ont., while a professor at the Anglican Church's theological college. Harpur's experience behind the microphone soon showed him how wide the gap was between what he and his colleagues were discussing in the college and what his callers were interested in. At the college everything was "as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be," said Harpur.

The point of Harpur's story was well taken. As Christian editors and journalists we have an obligation to address people's real questions. Our writing should focus on where life touches people. This means that our reporters, our columnists and our feature writers should be in touch not only with people around them, but they should make an effort to go where they normally don't go and meet people they normally don't meet. They should be good listeners and observers. They should read newspapers and magazines.

In order not to become overwhelmed by the chaos of voices out there, they should be in touch with God, the source of knowledge, and with themselves. "Know thyself" is still a strong prerequisite for understanding others.

Being in touch with where people are at does not mean that we give them the answers they want to hear, of course. We have no say over the content of the Good News, only over the way it is communicated. BW

EDUCATION

Alyce Oosterhuis

'Desired outcomes'

Alyce Oosterhuis

Ten years ago, every organization, business and school that wanted to be on the cutting edge of progress and change engaged its staff and directors in formulating mission statements. These mission statements were seen as concise visionary blueprints for the direction and goal-setting of the institution. Hours were spent in deliberations and concept-splitting exercises to produce the phrases that would make the difference. Upon completion, the mission statement would be inscribed upon glossy brochures and all the p.r. representatives would present impassioned speeches to engrave the phrases on everyone's consciousness.

What I always found to be striking in these mission-making sessions was the apparent belief that saying and doing are essentially the same. It was almost as if saying something frequently and convincingly enough would result in its becoming. And although it is true that as Christians we proclaim, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved," working out that belief does take a lifetime of dedication and commitment, stumbling and rising.

Obviously, my sense of needing more than mission *statements* is being recognized today in the latest education buzz-word: "outcome-based education." Now that every school has its vision, the emphasis is on the assessment of mission fulfilment. A U.S. February conference lists the various characteristics of four successful school districts: high standards, high expectations, formative testing, and "exit outcomes" for all students/products. These assessment concepts apply to any organization, regardless of whether we are describing a school or the automotive industry. We will measure the results and recognize the quantitatively most successful "producer."

The cart before the horse

Yet while outcome-based education may appear to be the logical consequence of the mission statement specifics, there is one caution I would make about today's buzz-word. Whereas the mission statements could be faulted for not spelling out the specifics of how to accomplish various goals, today's outcome-based assessment is working retroactively to affect those goals. Where the vision did not articulate the practices and subsequent assessments, outcome-based education is now determining the methods for vision attainment and potentially the vision as well.

This caution is similar to the concerns raised when provincially standardized tests were re-introduced into various provinces: Are teachers now going to teach for specific test results? Or will test results flow out of teaching goals and practices?

Unfortunately, most mission statement sessions ended with the public relations packets. Before we embrace "outcome-based management" in any of our organizations, we should refocus on our mission statements to see what practices *and* assessments flow from them.

Alyce Horzelenberg-Oosterhuis has just completed another session of student assessments at The King's University College in Edmonton where she teaches educational psychology.

Calvin College hosts writers' conference, attracts acclaimed authors

Marian Van Til, with files from Calvin College

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — More than a dozen "big name" Christian writers and poets gathered at Calvin College from April 21 to 23 to participate in "Christian Writers and Their Communities," a conference on literature and faith.

Workshops, readings and panel discussions gave participants a chance to discuss connections between their faith and their work — writing.

Headlining the conference were Kaye Gibbons, Doris Betts and Donald Hall, each of whom gave evening speeches or readings open to both conferees and the public.

Gibbons gave the keynote address. She has been "hailed by both critics and other writers as a stunning writer of engaging, witty fiction, filled with lively humor, compassion and intimacy," says Calvin spokesperson Phil De Haan.

De Haan says Doris Betts, who is from the southern U.S., has been called "earthy, compassionate and 'country smart,' as well as someone who really understands the spiritual landscape of the South." Her speech on April 22 was this year's Wiersma Memorial Lecture (a five-year-old lecture series honoring the late Stanley Wiersma, a much-loved Calvin English professor and poet).

The other main speaker, Donald Hall, read from and commented on his most recent work, *The Museum of Clear Ideas* (poetry), and *Life Work* (prose). He has published more than a dozen poetry volumes and 20 volumes of prose. He is a former poet laureate of New Hampshire and has received numerous awards, including the Robert Frost Silver Medal. Workshop leaders included a group illustrious in its own right: novelist and English professor Hugh Cook from Redeemer College in Ancaster, Ont.; fiction writer Denise Giardina from the southern U.S.; New England poet and novelist John Leax; essay writer and popular novelist Virginia Stem Owens; poet and publisher Lucy Shaw; poet and fantasy writer Robert Siegel; and essayist Gregory Wolfe.

What was unusual about the workshops, says W. Dale Brown of Calvin's English department, is that they weren't "just for academics or writers." Brown says the workshops were geared for "people who just love books, rubbing shoulders with writers and teachers."

Dordt approves naming of 'B.J. Haan Auditorium'

SIOUX CENTER, Iowa (DC) — Dordt College named its chapel/auditorium after the college's illustrious first president, Rev. B.J. Haan.

Current president Dr. John B. Hulst proposed the naming to recognize the leadership of Haan, who was Dordt's president from 1957-1982. Hulst pointed out Haan's leadership in five ways: in sensing the need for a Christian college in the Midwest; in establishing the Midwest Christian Junior College, eventually named Dordt College; in setting and articulating the reformational direction of the college; in bringing together a strong, committed community of academic and administrative personnel; and in promoting distinctively Christian education at all levels.

"This action is taken in the hope that the events scheduled and the crowds gathered in the auditorium will continually reflect the kingdom vision that clearly directed Rev. Haan's life and work," says Hulst.

Besides his work for Dordt College, Haan served as a minister of the Christian Reformed Church for 50 years.

Conference for Christian education professors a success

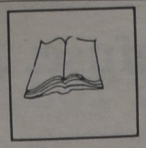
PALOS HEIGHTS, Ill. (TCC) — Trinity Christian College hosted 38 professors of education from various Christian colleges across North America for a conference April 7-9, titled "Nurturing Reflective Christian Teachers."

The three-day event, convened by Harro Van Brummelen of Trinity Western University, Langley, B.C., and Gloria Stronks of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., provided professors with the opportunity to share and discuss research as teacher-trainers in Christian institutions.

Keynote speaker Dr. Authur Holmes spoke of "Teaching To Teach Christianly." Other conference papers presented ranged from "Teachers as Articulate Artisans" by Doug Blomberg from Australia, to "The Collaborative Classroom in Christian Perspective" by John Van Dyk from Dordt College.

Conference participants expressed an interest in formalizing an association of education professors in Christian colleges and a task force was appointed to investigate the feasibility of this request.

Media / Arts



New publishing process sparks more writers and pastors to produce books

COLUMBUS, Georgia (BPG) — Pastors and others will soon be able to publish their own books with as few as 150 copies, at low rates, with bookstore quality. That's the promise of Jerry L. Luquire from Brentwood Christian Press who pioneered short-run custom book publishing 12 years ago.

The new printing process, called Digit-Print, eliminates the need for chemicals, negatives and expensive technicians to prepare plates from which material is printed. This electronic procedure uses digital transfer of the typeset, and is as easy, convenient and automatic as using a photocopier, the publisher said.

"Digit-Print will do for a pastor's publishing ministry what low cost cassette duplication did for tape ministry," Luquire discloses. "By sharply reducing the pre-press expense for printing, fewer books are necessary to recover the cost." As an example, he said a book that previously cost $5 each for 350 copies could now receive the same rate for 150 copies. Another advantage, he said, is the low cost use of a second color to highlight a chapter or other information on a page.

He observed that the initial expense of the Digit-Print equipment and its conversion cost to book printing would not encourage high volume publishers to enter the field. However he sees this technology as having significant impact upon the ministry of Brentwood Christian Press. He said the need for this continuing service is demonstrated by more than 2,000 titles in print by his company in recent years.

The publisher may be contacted at 4000 Beallwood Avenue, Columbus, Georgia 31904, telephone 800-334-8861.

Oxford University Press announces new ESL learning aids

(Canadian Scene) — The highly respected Oxford University Press is now publishing a sizable number of books, guides and audio cassettes in the English as a Second Language (ESL) category.

The new spring/summer catalogue lists such titles as the *Basic Oxford Picture Dictionary*, to meet the needs of adults with limited skills in English, the *Oxford Children's Picture Dictionary* in bilingual editions and the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Encyclopedic Dictionary*.

The bilingual dictionaries include English-French, English-Spanish, English-Italian, English-Greek, English-Chinese, English-Japanese, English-Korean, English-Cambodian, English-Polish and English-Russian.

Persons who cannot find these volumes in their local bookstores can write for a price list and description of all ESL material to **Ms. Joanne Shurvell, Trade Publicity Manager, Oxford University Press, 70 Wynford Drive, Don Mills, ON M3C 1J9.**

The Singing Nun

BRUSSELS—In the 1960s, the records of Belgian nun Jeanine Deckers briefly outsold Elvis and the Beatles, writes Max Davidson in *The Daily Telegraph*.

"The spectacle of a nun strumming a guitar and singing schmaltzy songs with an anarchic message — one of her hit singles was in praise of the Pill" — made her a hit. When she left her convent, the tax office wanted some of her royalties while the convent insisted on keeping her to her vow of poverty. She later committed suicide.

ABC-TV hires religion reporter to fill void in religious news reporting

DALLAS, Texas (EP) — Reporters in search of a good story can be found in war zones, crime scenes, and courtrooms. But on any given Sunday ABC reporter Peggy Wehmeyer can be found where most reporters fear to tread — church.

Wehmeyer joined ABC's "World News Tonight" in January as a religion beat reporter and is believed to be the first person to hold such a post with an American television network. And even though polls find that most reporters for major news outlets seldom or never attend religious services, Wehmeyer says her faith is important to her. Her mother was a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany and her father was an " on-again, off-again Christian Scientist." "I kind of found Christianity on my own in college," she says.

Though some journalists suggest that a practising Christian can't be "objective" about religion stories, Wehmeyer disagrees: "I think it's far more dangerous to have an atheist or someone hostile toward certain religious groups covering religion. I doubt that they understand a lot of the nuances and dynamics of faith." Having a religion reporter who worships poses no more of a conflict of interest than having a political reporter who votes, she argues.

Wehmeyer worked as a religion reporter for the ABC affiliate in Dallas before getting a call from Peter Jennings, an expatriate Canadian and anchor of "World News Tonight." Jennings had lobbied the network to create a religion beat, saying that religion was "one of the great untapped areas in our national life." He was looking for someone who understood both religion and television.

Though television's coverage of religion has tended to focus on extremes, such as crooked televangelists and apocalyptic cults, Wehmeyer says that's not the kind of story she was hired to do. "We're trying to capture the heart of spiritual life in this country."

Positive reaction

Response to the creation of a network news religion beat has been largely positive, says Wehmeyer. "A lot of people in the religious community are very excited that this is finally being done. They expect a lot and are watching very carefully. I try not to think too much about that because it's a lot of pressure. They're excited and are hoping that it will be done the way they want it to be done. Obviously we won't be able to please everybody, but I hope we can fill the real void out there."

Wehmeyer concludes. "I think the media has missed one of the biggest stories out there, and that's the role that spirituality and faith play in everybody's life. Hiring somebody to cover it is a step in the right direction."

Skydomers 'most inconsiderate' fans, says Globe

Marian Van Til

TORONTO — The *Globe and Mail* has publicly asserted what many real baseball fans have complained about since the opening of the Skydome in 1989: thousands of Skydome fans seem more interested in walking back and forth to the concession stands and beer tabs than they are in watching the Blue Jays and their opponents play ball.

Says the *Globe*: "Skydome fans (not to be confused with baseball fans) are the least educated (and most inconsiderate) in the major leagues." They haven't learned that between innings is the time to stock up on munchies or go to the bathroom.

In fact, there are so many fans who wander from their seats even when there's no break in the action that announcements are now being made both 20 minutes before the game and at the beginning of the fourth inning asking fans to remain in their seats except between innings.

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Church, Marian Van Til, page editor

Eighteen church groups in Alberta refuse lottery funds

CALGARY, Alta. (MCC) — Eighteen church-related relief and development agencies including Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Alberta and the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee have decided not to take money from the Alberta government which comes from lottery revenues.

Last September MCC's Alberta office decided not to renew its annual application to the province after learning that the funds, which used to come from regular tax revenues, would be coming from lottery proceeds.

The decision means the agency gave up a chance to receive as much as $24,000 from the province for its international relief and development work. That was the amount the government of Alberta gave MCC in 1993 before the source of the funding was changed.

Other groups which have decided not to apply for funding include World Vision Canada, World Relief Canada, the Anglican Church of Canada, the Canadian Organization for Development and Peace, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Compassion Canada, Emmanuel Relief and Rehabilitation International, Mission Aviation Fellowship, SIM Canada, the Alberta Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, the Baptist Union of Western Canada, the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, the Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse-Canada, the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the United Church of Canada.

According to Stan Fisher, executive director of the Wild Rose Foundation, the government agency which dispenses lottery revenues for a variety of health, recreation and community programs in the province and overseas relief and development, the decisions taken by the 18 groups will not cause the government to change the source of funds for international development purposes.

Fisher says that the switch in funding is the result of cost-cutting measures in Alberta. Until last year the Alberta Agency for International Development (AAID), the agency which disbursed money for overseas aid projects, was a part of the department of Economic Development and Tourism. When that department had to axe $33 million from its budget, AAID and its $1.6 million budget was transferred to the Wild Rose Foundation.

Reaction to the decision not to ask for the money has been mixed, according to MCC Alberta executive director Dick Neufeld. "It's fair to say that Alberta Mennonites are divided on this question," he says, noting that one Alberta Mennonite conference agency received Wild Rose Foundation Funds in 1991. While some people have praised the agency's stand, "I've had a number of people call to say it's ridiculous for us to refuse the money," he says.

To date, $800 has been donated by people who have specifically mentioned the decision not to take lottery funds as a reason for contributing to MCC.

World Missions returns staff to El Salvador

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (CRWM) — Christian Reformed World Missions is sending missionaries to El Salvador — again.

Since two Christian Reformed missionary families first went to plant a Reformed church in this Central American nation in 1978, politics and war have twice forced missionaries to evacuate the country. In 1978, World Missions had staff in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras, with long-range plans for having organized churches in each country and withdrawing missionaries by 1999. But instability in the region forced missionaries to evacuate El Salvador, as well as Nicaragua and Guatemala, in 1980. Three missionary families returned to El Salvador in 1986 and 1987, only to be forced to leave again in 1989.

"During the last six months more than 10 bombs have gone off in our neighborhood — all within a five-mile radius of the house," wrote missionaries Pablo and Sheryl Canche to supporters in May of 1989. They have worked in Honduras since then.

In Central America today World Missions has resident staff only in Honduras and Costa Rica. However, missionaries in these countries have continued to offer training by extension to church leaders in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

The problem is spiritual

The end of a civil war in El Salvador and peaceful presidential elections on March 20 make conditions safe for missionaries to return. But World Missions is also responding to requests from the two Christian Reformed churches in El Salvador to strengthen the Christian Reformed church in El Salvador, and to continue to establish an alliance of churches and groups interested in Reformed thought, theological education and diaconal training.

"While meeting with various national church leaders in San Salvador a few weeks ago, the Lutheran bishop advised the CRC staff that if we want to help El Salvador we must build the church because the fundamental problem is spiritual; all other solutions are superficial," reports Paul Theule, World Missions field director for Central America.

World Missions plans to place two missionaries in El Salvador within the next two years. The missionaries will primarily provide theological training for Salvadoran pastors and elders. World Missions staff will be working with Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) staff Jim and Jeanne Rikkers-De Borst, whose development work includes programs in health, agriculture, literacy, income earning, and diaconal training. Together, the two agencies will have the goal of creating a viable CRC identity in El Salvador.

Reformed Bible College students come from 12 countries

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (RBC) — Winter semester enrolment statistics show that Reformed Bible College in Grand Rapids currently has 181 credit students plus 28 guest students. The number of students on campus has risen from 206 total in the fall semester to 209 total this semester. In addition, 109 are enrolled in correspondence courses. Thus, a total of 318 students are taking RBC classes.

This semester RBC has students from The Philippines, Serbia, Mexico and Jamaica. Others come from Kenya, Zambia, Columbia, Ghana, Uganda, and Russia. In addition, students come from five Canadian provinces and from 15 states within the U.S.

One such international student, Rose Chepkoech Chebii, tells of her life: "Born and reared in Kenya, I am now pursuing my bachelor of religious education program with a view to becoming a religious education teacher in a Christian school in Kenya. I am very much committed to and eager to return home and serve my people after completion of this program at RBC."

RBC is an accredited, four-year college which specializes in preparing students for Christian service in North America and throughout the world. RBC alumni are now working in many specialized ways in 59 countries on six continents.

Top 10 complaints kids have about church

Dave Letterman-style "Top 10" lists are cropping up everywhere, including the church. The following lighthearted list came from the young people at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Creve Coeur, Missouri. It appeared in the Lenten edition of Anglican Digest.

10. Rector rarely trips over vestments.
9. All pages in the Prayer Book already scribbled on.
8. Wine of poor vintage.
7. Kneelers designed by sadists.
6. Those stubby little pencils.
5. "Help! I've fallen asleep and I can't wake up!"
4. Hamster in pocket gnawing at leg.
3. Sermons.
2. Ushers patrolling aisles with baseball bats.
1. Sunday school superintendent showed up.

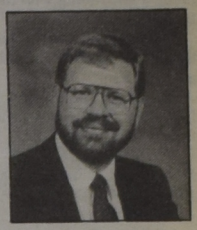
Texas vies for sacramental wine market

CEDAR PARK, Texas (EP) — A Texas winery hopes to break into the lucrative sacramental wine business, currently dominated by California vineyards. Hill Country Cellars, located near Austin, is introducing Brother Thomas wines, the first-ever Texas wine made exclusively for church use.

Churches often spend as much as $5,000 a year for sacramental wine used in communion services. Sacramental wines differ from mass-market wines in that they contain only materials from grapes and have no additives. Such wine is used in the Catholic Church and some Protestant denominations; evangelical churches typically use grape juice rather than wine.

Beyond sophisticated indifference

Wayne Brouwer CHAPTER & VERSE



"Do not merely listen to the world, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says!" (James 1:22).

When Mahatma Ghandi travelled from his homeland in India as a young man and came to England, he was curious about the religion of the British people. So he bought himself a Bible and began to read it. He was amazed! This was good stuff! When he read Jesus' Sermon on the Mount he got so excited! Here was a statement about life that mattered! Here was a testimony of God's grace! Here was a religion that counted!

The next Sunday he went to church. He couldn't wait to be a part of a religion like that! He wasn't sure what was going to happen, but he knew that he wanted to be a Christian.

Unfortunately, that worship service was one of the most awful times of his life! He came looking for God. He came looking for grace. He came looking for a sense of purpose and peace and life. But where was it?

The singing was half-hearted. Many people just stood there with their mouths closed, or mumbled along in boredom. The sermon was a tedious explanation of some fine point of doctrine. It said so little, and it took so long to say it.

Still, the time wasn't exactly wasted. Many of the people used it for a nap. At least *they* got something out of it. And when they roused themselves to leave, the conversations were about business as usual.

Where was the power of the gospel? Where was the love of God? Where was the joy and the peace and the excitement about the Kingdom of Heaven? It was as if the crowds seemed to say, "I don't care!"

A parable of complacent death

Ghandi tried to be a fair person. The next Sunday he went to a worship service at another church. But the sense was the same: the atmosphere was one of sophisticated indifference, and he left with an empty heart. He tried a number of different churches for the next three months, but never met more than a kind of middle-class churchianity. And there in England, Ghandi decided that the Christian church had nothing for him. He returned to his Hindu practices, though to his dying day he continued to read the Sermon on the Mount.

How does the power ebb from the Christian faith? How does religion turn into complacent indifference?

Someone once described the process in allegorical terms. There was a community that lived along the seacoast, he said. The shoreline was treacherous. Not a few ships foundered and crashed there on the rocks and reefs.

But the community was a caring sort. They formed a rescue brigade. Every time there was a disaster at the sea, they sounded the alarm and raced from their homes; they did what they could among the rocks and the waves. Some people they pulled from the waters. Some property they managed to salvage. But most of the sailors drowned and the larger portion of the cargo was destroyed.

The people of the community wanted to do more. They wanted to *prevent* these disasters from happening, so they organized a Fire Brigade. By the day the Fire Brigade gathered wood from the forest. And every night they lit a fire that served to warn the ships at sea. Fewer ships crashed and fewer lives were lost.

At the start everybody wanted to be a member of the Fire Brigade. After all, most of them had first come to the community through disasters at sea. They had been drawn from the wreckage by other hands, and now they wanted to help those who were still at sea.

But the work was hard, and most of it was volunteer. The nights were long, and when it rained or stormed it was tough to take a turn at the post. After a while, the Fire Brigade began to change. It happened subtly. First, they erected a nice warm building where they could eat and sleep in comfort. Then they decided that the fires at night were much too inefficient, so they built a tall lighthouse and installed a kerosene lamp that shone far out to sea.

Of course, nobody had to gather wood or tend the fires anymore. And that gave them time to build a club. They put up a huge new banquet hall where they could have meetings and parties and dances.

They had a lot of fun together. It was *the* group to be a part of. They called themselves the lighthouse brigade now. All the happenings in the community went on there.

And then one night a terrific storm came up. And the light in the tower blew out. But nobody noticed because they were all safe and sound, warm and protected in their luxurious club.

Three ships crashed on the rocks that night and thousands of lives were lost. But the people of the lighthouse brigade never knew it.

And they didn't care.

Wayne Brouwer is a pastor at First Christian Reformed Church in London, Ont.

Norman Vincent Peale's widow carries on her husband's 'positive thinking'

Marian Van Til, with files from PCCL

NEW YORK — The widow of Dr. Norman Vincent Peale has promised to keep alive her late husband's message of the "power of positive thinking." Ruth Stafford Peale last month pledged "a new beginning" for the work of the Peale Center for Christian Living in Pawling, N.Y., the organization the Peales began in 1940. Norman Vincent Peale died last Christmas Eve.

Ruth Peale said, "The message of Norman's book *The Power of Positive Thinking* is as vital today as it was when it was first published in 1952.... You can move mountains with an optimistic attitude based on faith." The book has sold over 20 million copies to date — the best selling non-fiction book by a single author in history.

Ruth Peale says that she and her husband and the Peale Center staff had for years planned for the "advent of an era beyond Norman Vincent Peale." Her mission is the same as her husband's was, she says: to "help all people find their personal spiritual potential by communicating the faith-filled principles of positive thinking" which "enable [people] to overcome life's problems and seize its opportunities."

Norman Vincent Peale's linking of "positive thinking" with the Christian faith has had many critics who say that that message is not one that Scripture espouses. Though Peale's name is irrevocably linked with the "positive thinking" phenomenon, his daughter insists that he "never wanted to be thrust to the forefront... He always wanted it to be on Jesus Christ and Christian faith."

Under Ruth Peale, the Peale Center will continue its work, which includes publishing *PLUS: The Magazine of Positive Thinking*, running prayer ministries for people who write or phone with problems, producing literature and tapes, staffing "Dial-A-Prayer" phone stations and conducting its "School of Practical Christianity" for pastors and their spouses.

World Vision helps Rwandan refugees

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. (WVC) — As some 1.3 million people flee from warfare in Rwanda, World Vision staff in three neighboring countries are poised to increase relief efforts for refugees arriving on their borders. World Vision, an international Christian humanitarian relief and development agency, has committed $2 million to help people displaced by violence in Rwanda and Burundi.

The project will provide temporary shelter, basic household needs and medicine for 15,000 Rwandans who have fled to Burundi. World Vision Uganda is giving similar emergency assistance to 4,000 refugees. World Vision Zaire is providing blankets, pots and a three-month supply of maize, beans and salt to 5,000 people.

The presidents of Rwanda and Burundi, both members of the majority Hutu ethnic group, died in a suspicious plane crash on April 6. It has led to a massacre in Rwanda as the presidential guard began slaughtering government ministers and members of the minority Tutsi ethnic group. An estimated 100,000 people have died.

World Vision had already established a relief program to help people displaced from their homes in Burundi after last October's aborted coup which also resulted in an estimated 100,000 deaths.

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Are food banks a bad idea?

Anne Hutten

"I don't believe in food banks," said my sister. "They create dependency and they discourage people from working."

Her comments have made me rethink (again!) my involvement with the local food bank, where a dozen churches collectively feed an average of 35 families every week. A number of questions arise:

* Are we, the local churches, doing a good thing with this food bank?

* Even though well-intentioned, are food banks basically a bad idea?

* Have we "do-gooders" fully considered the ramifications of giving out food?

* Are poor people less motivated to work because of our efforts?

In justifying my involvement, I can only give my own literal understanding of Bible texts. There are so many references to helping the poor, seeking justice for the widow and orphan, feeding the hungry!

The Old Testament is emphatic in its demand that people be responsible for their neighbors. It begins in Leviticus: *When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the Lord your God.*

The book of Proverbs includes many references to the poor: *He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.*

Prophets pick up the same refrain. Ezekiel, in describing a wicked son, lists specific sins, among them *He oppresses the poor and needy.* Amos, speaking to a sinful people on Mount Samaria, berates *you women who oppress the poor and crush the needy...* Zechariah adds: *Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor.*

True religion helps the poor

Jesus was even more specific in his marching orders to believers. Speaking of the final judgment, he lines up the saves on one side, the lost on another. Why the judgment that divides them? Among the reasons for salvation: *I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.*

For me, the most persuasive texts are those that deal with the true meaning of religion. Micah asks rhetorically: *And what does the Lord require of you?* and responds with: *to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.* James writes: *Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

We can, of course, interpret Bible texts to justify our own bias or emphasis. No doubt the individual texts I've quoted can be applied in widely divergent ways. But collectively, these passages — and there are hundreds of a similar vein — speak authoritatively about our responsibility to the poor and hungry.

What's more, the Bible makes a point of tying its concern for the poor into a pervasive concern for social justice. To oppress the poor is to do injustice; to care for the poor is to express justice. I am the Lord your God! is added as a final authority.

We in the 1990s might argue that the poor of the Old and New Testaments were very different from the poor of today. Back then, there was no social safety net. There were no welfare cheques, no UIC benefits, no disability pensions. Then, the Bible expressed concern mostly about orphans and widows who had no protector once the father/husband died. That's quite a different scenario from what we see now.

What do we see at the local food bank and soup kitchen? We see single-parent families, not often through death, but through separation, abandonment or divorce. We see young men and women who lack the basic life skills that would get them work. We see derelicts addicted to one substance or another. We see families subsisting on welfare, unable to make the budget stretch far enough when the smallest emergency strikes. We see men waiting for UIC cheques, unable to feed their families during the six-week waiting period.

I would argue that single mothers and their children are today's widows and orphans. This can be hard to maintain, given some very specific cases. Last fall I provided emergency food help to a 25-year-old woman with four children. She had never been married; the kids had different fathers. She had never worked and had no marketable skills. Welfare paid her bills, but whenever the oil bill went high, she couldn't make ends meet.

It's tempting to abandon her to her fate. Maybe she deserves to be hungry? But even if so, do her little ones deserve that pain in the belly when there is nothing in the house but a few potatoes? Do they deserve the malnutrition that will stunt their physical and intellectual growth?

Only the deserving?

I have a further problem with writing off those who "deserve" their fate. When Jesus ordered us to feed the hungry, nowhere did he add that we should feed only the deserving. This is quite clear, especially through the familiar story of a woman pouring expensive perfume on his head. When the disciples indignantly suggested the money should have gone to the poor, Jesus responded, *The poor you will always have with you.*

That's the discouraging part for those who volunteer their time in a food bank. But it's also the backbone, the impetus, for that volunteering. Jesus seems to be saying, Don't think you can solve the problem of poverty so easily. There's never any shortage of people who are too improvident, too short-sighted, too unskilled, too stupid, perhaps, to feed themselves.

PHOTOS: ANNE HUTTEN

Captain Charles Steenburgh of Kentville's Salvation Army corps is a supervisor at the Fundy Interchurch Food Bank.

Making up the gaps

Food banks began in the mid-1980s as a temporary measure for what was to be a temporary recession. Almost a decade later, they have become institutionalized. You may be sure that governments setting the level of welfare payments now count on food banks and other volunteer aid to make up the gaps in their programs. Few of us have any illusions about being able to close our doors in the near future. The poor we will always have with us!

The question is whether that's good or bad. Perhaps it's useful for those with a good job, good health, nice homes and leisure time to devote a portion of their resources to others, as an exercise in Christian living. In the event that some of the recipients are less than deserving, perhaps it's even better for *our* souls. Loving your friends is easy enough; loving the outcasts of society is more difficult.

Quite clearly, I'm a proponent of food banks. But that's not to say I don't have serious reservations about what we are doing. Food banks are very much an imperfect solution to imperfect situations. When I helped the young woman mentioned earlier, I provided transportation because she had no car and no bus money. Two months later when she called again, she fully expected me to drive her. A dependency had been created.

I would suggest that we need a dialogue among the people who are involved in food banks or similar efforts, and those who consider food banks to be a bad idea. Perhaps we could pose a different set of questions:

* If food banks are subject to abuse, what measures can we take to limit that?

* Are we personally involved with at least one "poor" family, so that we know what we're talking about?

* If we don't believe in giving out free food, what solutions can we offer to hungry people? What other methods can we use to carry out Jesus's mandate to feed the hungry?

* Since food banks are clearly a response to political indifference and marginalization of the poor, what political action can we take?

We need long-term solutions, yes. But is it possible that such solutions do not exist? Is that why we continue with stop-gap measures such as food banks?

Note: In Nova Scotia alone, there are 54 food banks, serving more than 22,000 people each year. Across Canada, 2.4 million people rely on at least some help from food banks in 540 communities every year (April 1994 statistics).

Anne Hutten is a farmer/journalist in the Annapolis Valley. She serves as her church's director to the Fundy Interchurch Food Bank at New Minas, Nova Scotia.

An open letter to seekers of 're-creational opportunities'

Or: What to do on your summer vacation

John Wood

The following was put together by John Wood, CC's "Environmental Housekeeping" columnist and teacher of environmental science at The King's University College in Edmonton, after a telephone conversation with CC staff reporter Irene Bom. We think Wood has some important things to say, as well as some good ideas for planning your summer holidays. So with Wood's permission, we've decided to let you listen in on his remarks.

I did a bit of thinking about your questions to me the other morning. I had been planning to write a column on "ecotourism" but I haven't pulled it together yet. It seemed to me that our conversation got stuck on what is wrong with taking a family trip to the local nature area.

There certainly are some problems with the way we go about recreation these days, but there are also lots of positives to emphasize as well. A vacation can actually be, as [Reformed environmentalist] Cal De Witt has said, a *re-creational* experience, if one gives it a bit of thought. I would suggest that we ought to be *creative* in our plans, and look for "creative re-creational opportunities."

Few know nature first-hand

The possibility of enjoying nature first-hand, as opposed to through books, films, videos and TV seems to be a fairly well-kept secret in North America. About a third of Canadians say that they encounter wildlife "incidentally" while on business or vacation trips. Only 20 per cent say they take special trips or outings to watch, photograph, feed or study wildlife. The vast majority of people see their wildlife only through the media.

So we could do much more to encourage people to make the effort to see the Creator's handiwork. *The Importance of Wildlife to Canadians: Highlights of the 1991 Survey* is a good source of background information (Canadian Wildlife Service, Cat. no. CW 66-103/1993E).

Roger Torey Peterson has competition

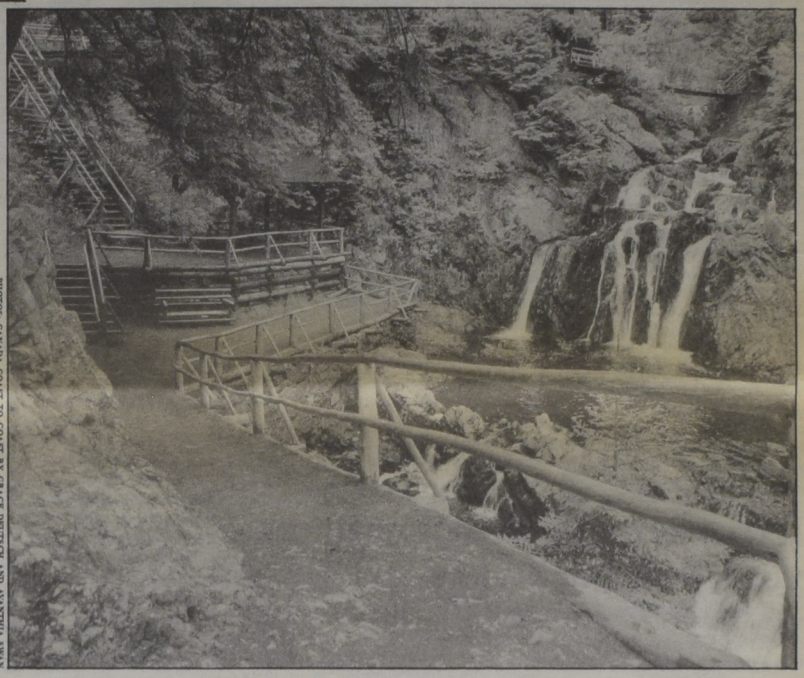
The publication of nature guides has exploded in the last decade or so. The venerable old Peterson series has gotten stiff new competition. There are local guides to almost every major group of organisms, and numerous international guides also.

Non-consumptive activities like butterfly watching are now coming into their own (and bird watching is more popular than ever). There are butterfly guidebooks and even butterfly conservation clubs springing up in some of the larger cities. The guides are geared to all ages and levels of experience.

For a number of years I have been planning my trips to include stops in national and provincial and state parks. These spots contain the jewels in the natural crowns of Canada and the U.S. Most of them have visitors' centres with literature on the cultural history, geology, climate and natural history of the area. This material will often range across age levels, from beginner to advanced technical reports available.

Trips, trails and water excursions are always in season. No matter what time of the year, the creation is always open for viewing. *Endangered Spaces: The Future For Canada's Wilderness*, edited by Monte Hummel (1989) was a clarion call for Canadians to set aside representative habitats before the natural communities are gone forever. Hummel has a good chapter on the history of the national park movement in

Continued on p. 12...



PHOTOS: CANADA COAST TO COAST BY GRACE DEUTSCH AND ANANTHRA SWAN

Lepper Brook in Truro's Victoria Park, Nova Scotia

Cormorants near Pictou, Nova Scotia

Feature

An open letter to seekers of 're-creational opportunities'

...continued from p. 11

Canada. (See also *A Protected Areas Vision for Canada*, Canadian Environmental Advisory Council, 1991. Cat. no. EN 92-14/1991E.)

U.S. national monuments a 'best-kept secret'

In the U.S. perhaps the best-kept secret is the national monument system. Everyone knows about the national parks, but fewer people visit the monuments. The national monuments are more intimate in size and usually have only one outstanding feature and a limited land base (for example, Mt. Saint Helens is now an amazing and eerily beautiful — and highly educational — national monument area). The staff at the monuments is smaller and the number of visitors fewer, so the experience is often better than in the more popular and well-known national parks.

Our children still recall the thrill of turning off the flashlights deep in a lava-tube cave in northern California. The excitement of that moment of discovery of absolute darkness in a natural wonder is as vivid as any they have had at the movies or the carnival.

It happened because we turned off the interstate freeway. The rest of the trip has faded from memory, but those few hours in the ground are with us still.

PHOTOS: CANADA COAST TO COAST BY GRACE DEITSCH AND AVANTHIA SWAN

Hiking trails of Glacier National Park, British Columbia.

Incidentally, the National Geographic Society has just released a book which details hundreds of interesting sites across the U.S. which you can get to from interstate highway exits. If you've seen signs along an interstate highway for a site that looked interesting, but you weren't sure how far off the road it was, how long it would take to get there or if it would be worth the effort when you did get there, this book will give you such information. (Contact the society for information.)

If you're looking for something a bit different you might try contacting your local naturalist organization. There are groups in every major city in Canada and the U.S., and in many smaller places too. The Environmental Network in Ottawa publishes a directory of environmental organizations arranged by topic and location that will give you national contacts. Almost every province has a local organization that also publishes a directory.

Consider an eco-trip

An entirely new area has been created in the travel industry lately called "ecotourism." This concept is now being pushed by both the federal and provincial governments as well as by the business community.

I just picked up the premiere issue of *EcoTraveler* at the news stand. I'm somewhat skeptical about the yuppie ads, Mother Earth spirituality and globe-trotting lifestyle portrayed in its pages. However, they did include an 11-point statement by the Ecumenical Coalition on Third World Tourism. I have no idea who this group is or represents, but the statement has some good reminders for us "First Worlders."

We talked, as I recall, about the sentiments in Point 8: "If you really want your experience to be a 'home away from home' it is foolish to waste money on travelling." This fits, it seems to me, into any vacation plan that one is making.

Get to know your own back yard

I would like to see us concentrate on learning more about the place in which we live. Most of us have become peripatetic citizens of an imaginary world created in the minds of a relatively few Madison Avenue types. Charlie Shedd's grandmother gave good advice in that regard in *Letters to Karen* (Spire Books, 1965): "So, want your own wants. Don't let the 'Buy, Buy, Buy' boys pilfer the pleasure of your present enjoyments! Make the very most of all you've got and make the very least of what you can't get yet!"

Rather than wanting our own wants, we are letting others define our desires and fill our heads with myths about what is good and satisfying in the world. This certainly applies to our choices of vacation destinations and activities. I'm always amazed how people drool over cruise ships, for example. The reality of such trips is not a good match with the lithe young bodies the ads show gliding over the decks! (Now I'm about to turn cynical, so I'll stop!)

I do find that one of the best ways to avoid being overwhelmed with the stress of this modern life and the degradation of creation is to frequently visit the Creator's handiwork—to feel the pulse of natural processes, to function on a natural time scale and hear a still small voice.

Don't get me wrong. I also take my family to the water park for the exhilaration of "The Twister," "Nessie's Revenge," "The Drop of Doom," etc. "For everything there is a season," says Ecclesiastes. I don't think writer had waterslides in mind, but... you never know!

Experience re-creation in your own back yard

Marian Van Til

Not everyone can afford to take extensive holidays, in summer or at whatever time of year. But we all need respite from our work and daily routine; and we need it often. A once-a-year summer holiday can't be expected to provide the rest, relaxation and rejuvenation —the re-creation, as Cal De Witt calls it — we all need virtually weekly. In fact, that's the way we were created.

So what to do?

I've found the answer in making our own suburban back yard into a little oasis from which my husband Ed and I can drink in many of the little joys creation has to offer.

What's so interesting about a back yard? you ask. Doesn't a person, at the very least, have to go to a park to "get in touch with nature"?

Parks are fine (and necessary) but your yard can be even better, and it's "right there." Even if you have only a small space, with a little planning, in a relatively short time you can surround yourself with a plethora of flowers and plants, a rock garden, a bird feeding area and even a small pond (if only in a half wine barrel).

Then you can place a front-row seat, so to speak, anywhere you like so you can get in on the daily action of the birds, insects, butterflies, birds and other small creatures.

Joy in common things

Since I began turning our yard into such a re-creational place (with room left over for Ed and I to play catch), each season new creatures appear in our yard. While none of them may be "rare" in terms of the general area in which we live, watching them reminds us of the "rarity" of all God's creatures, and we're always excited when something new turns up. Often that "something new" visits us rather than our neighbors because we've created a safe, fairly secluded environment for any and all creatures, and we don't use pesticides.

Besides the regular bevy of squirrels, blue jays, cardinals, house and purple finches and four or five kinds of sparrows, in the last few years we've seen downy and hairy woodpeckers, a flicker, goldfinches, juncos, grosbeaks, mockingbirds, a ruby-throated hummingbird, Monarch and other butterflies, bumblebees, honey bees, a toad, various flying insects (some beneficial, some not!) rabbits and chipmunks which have come to feed in our yard. (Even the humble sparrows have fascinating habits and lively, cheerful voices.)

In addition, there is the eye-feast of flowering shrubs and small trees, a dwarf apple tree (we're adding a peach this year) and numerous flowers and some small vegetable plots (which are interesting to look at in their own right).

I can't go into the details of attracting wildlife or creating flower gardens; my purpose here is only to say that it *can* be done, probably more easily than you think, and without a great deal of expense. And the result will not only make you become more observant of the creation around you, but will become a place of refuge for you and your spouse or family — a constant source of pleasure, wonderment and restfulness.

(If you need help in creating such a "re-creative space," consult the gardening and/or nature section of a couple of local bookstores. There are now many resources available to help you make your plans.)

Advice/News

Male voices lift roof off Baptist church

Bert Witvoet

TORONTO — The cavernous sanctuary of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church found itself filled not only with 1,500 bodies but with jubilant sounds of praise on Saturday evening, April 23. The *vox humana* represented not only a stop on the mighty organ played by Willem van Suydam but also seven Christian male choruses from southern Ontario.

The average age of audience and choirs was probably the same as that of the readership of CC — mid-50s. That meant no significant diminishing of volume combined with an amazing maturity of timbre.

The audience also got into the praise of things when, led by van Suydam on the organ and Dutch trumpet players Henk-Jan and Herman Drost (father and son), they burst into "Praise My Soul the King of Heaven," "Thee, O God, Yes, Thee We Praise," and "Now Thank We All Our God."

A captivating ending

The program was too long and might have led to a mass exodus had not the second half been as compelling as it was with excellent performances by the Garden City Christian Male Chorus from St. Catharines under the direction of female conductor Jan Venema and The Ambassadors from Hamilton under the baton of Harold DeHaan.

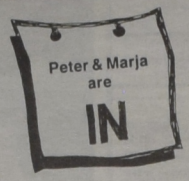
A delectable dessert was saved for last when the combined choirs sang such inspiring hymns as "Sanctus" by Schubert, "Hark, the Vesper Hymn Is Stealing" (a Russian air) "Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts" by Camille Saint-Saens and "Morte Christe" by Emrys Jones.

The Dutch have a word for a dessert being a little heavy and filling: "*Machtig*." This dessert was no exception: it was "mighty" and filling. There is little room for subtleties when Dutch organists in the Romantic tradition of Feike Asma get behind a five-manual console and about 250 male voices get the urge to celebrate salvation. But the audience loved it and rewarded the warriors with a standing ovation.

One side comment: three of the choirs — those from Brampton/Georgetown, Springdale and Sarnia — restricted their selections to musical fare that does not belong in the Reformed tradition. One song by each choir about Jesus and me is fine; salvation is very personal. But all three selections? Where is the vision of God's creation, the breadth of his church universal or the focus on his coming kingdom in all this?

But one would have to be a cynic to linger too long with the weaknesses and not focus on the marvelous gift of 250 men singing, for example, a beautiful and dignified arrangement of Psalm 42 — "I shall yet through all my days, Give to him my thankful praise; God who will from shame deliver, Is my God, my rock, forever."

If you did not feel goosebumps all over you during that performance, you were just not in touch with *vox humana* and with Reformed worship.



Dear P & M:

Why are people so negative about sex? And so serious. I remember once you even discussed reading and/or looking at erotica as a possible activity for loving couples. Good grief: you don't read it — you do it. Of course, I suppose it depends on what you consider erotica. In our marriage we have lots of fun, sometimes with what is called sex, sometimes romance, and sometimes just plain goofing around. My inspiration for writing comes from my love for my wife. I also have a feeling that you folks might have some of the same sentiments.

Dear Just Do It:

Thanks for a lighthearted, whimsical letter about sex. For you and your wife it's more than a "duty"; it's a beautiful experience. Terrific! The Lord, with his obvious sense of humor, has created us for marvelously foolish things. As adoptive parents ourselves we're glad that there's more to sex than procreation. Like you, we have had lots of fun in our marriage in all the ways that you mentioned and we certainly share your sentiments.

But you know, telling couples to "just do it" isn't enough. There are times when partners need to know *how, when,* and even *where* to make love. You will want to know what's normal within human behavior and what's normative according to God's will.

Young couples on their honeymoon need help to make the transition from single to married sexuality. There's more to pleasing your spouse than "just doing it." There are erogenous zones to be discovered, anatomy lessons to be explored and lovemaking methods to be learned so that each partner is satisfied. Orgasms don't just happen. They require the right atmosphere, setting, timing and touches. Why blunder along for years when some candid reading and open discussion can alleviate a lot of frustrations and answer a lot of questions?

Older couples, for a variety of reasons, may encounter diminished sexual desire, even impotence. It helps to know that you're not the only one whose sex life is affected by work, kids and all the other responsibilities that come with being an adult. It helps to know that financial worries and marital conflict have negative effects on the quantity and the quality of lovemaking. It helps to know, too, as one of our panelists pointed out, that infrequent lovemaking can be a factor in prostate conditions.

But who can you talk to about these matters? It's not often that you can have a frank discussion with other couples about these worrisome things.

So where do we learn about sex? The fact is, that despite our sex-crazed culture people tend to talk about sex in generalities. Very close friends might have an explicit, detailed conversation about lovemaking, but this is pretty rare and very special. We suppose that's because God intended sexual intercourse to be a private and intimate act. But this privacy can leave people uninformed. That's why we urge couples to get some literature about sexuality from the library and the Christian bookstore as a non-threatening starting point for a discussion about their sex life together.

We're all for "just doing it" in the context of marriage, as long as we remember that the "it" is just one part of a romantic whole. We love the way you captured that in your letter. From the sounds of it, your whole relationship is characterized by a certain playfulness and closeness. Your letter is a good reminder that foreplay and lovemaking include hand-holding, special smiles, endearments, shared experiences and the sense that you are cherished by your partner.

This column will be read by our readers. It will probably spark some discussion between couples, which may culminate in some physical intimacy. Where that's the case some folks will have done something sexual after reading our advice. Would that mean that today's column could be considered a form of Christian erotica? (Just asking!)

Write to: P & M
c/o Christian Courier
4-261 Martindale Road
St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1

Peter and Marja Slofstra are a pastor and wife team living in St. Catharines, Ont. They are assisted by an advisory panel consisting of Herman de Jong, Bill Lidkea, Tom Zeyl, Irene Bom, Marian Van Til and Bert Witvoet.

Meyer, Wassenaar & Banach
Barristers & Solicitors
4856 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario. M2N 5N2
Telephone (416) 223-9191
Willem J.B. Meyer, Q.C. *Sy L. Wassenaar, Q.C.*
Martin Banach, LL.B.

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This award-winning Senior Citizen Home is located close to Burlington Christian Reformed Church and Ebenezer Canadian Reformed Church, with audio hook-up for the Sunday services in every apartment from both churches and a weekly evening video church service presentation. Local bus service at the door. Monthly rent is geared to income. Maximum $435.00 a month.
Information from:
Mrs. Henriette Hofsink, 109-3260 New St.
Burlington, ON L7L 3L4 (905) 681-0311)

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a) *Christian Courier* reserves the right to print classifieds using our usual format.,

b) A sheet with information about an obituary sent by funeral homes is *not* acceptable since it leads to errors and confusion.

c) Photographs sent by fax *are not* acceptable. If you wish a photo included, send us the original.

d) *Christian Courier* will not be responsible for any errors due to handwritten or phoned-in advertisements.

e) The rate shown above for classifieds covers any length up to six column inches. *Christian Courier* reserves the right to charge for additional column inches at the rate of $13.50 per column inch (GST incl.).

NEWLYWEDS & NEW PARENTS

We offer a one-year subscription for only $20.00 (GST incl.) to the couples whose wedding is announced in the *Christian Courier* and to the parents of the child whose birth announcement appears in our paper. To facilitate matters, we encourage those who request the wedding or birth announcement to enclose $20.00 and the couple's correct address.

Christian Courier
4-261 Martindale Rd.
St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1
Phone: (905) 682-8311
Fax: (905) 682-8313

Marriages

BOER-VANDER PLOEG:

It is with great joy that we, the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tony and Margaret Boer of Wyoming, Ont., and Mr. and Mrs. Ray and Helen Vander Ploeg of Woodstock, Ont., announce the forthcoming marriage of

TERESA JOYCE
and
GARY

on Saturday, May 21, 1994, at 3 p.m., at the Wyoming Chr. Ref. Church, Wyoming, Ont., Rev. Ken Benjamins officiating.

Psalm 33:20-22.

Future address: 901-150 Market St., Hamilton, ON L8R 3H6

Births

DE JONG:

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" (Matt. 19:14).

Rachel Lindsay: 10 hrs. old.

Kevin and Heather de Jong (nee Moore) praise God for the gracious gift of their first child, a beautiful daughter,

RACHEL LINDSAY

born on Sundaymorning, May 1, 1994, weighing 7 lbs., 3 oz.

Happy grandparents are Stan and Corrie de Jong of St. Catharines, Ont. (sixth grandchild), and John Moore of Peterborough, Ont., and Irene Moore of Lindsay, Ont. (first grandchild).

Home address: 749-15th Street, E., Owen Sound, ON N4K 1X5

SCHAAFSMA-MOLENAAR:

With gratitude to God, who made all things well, we announce the early arrival of our fourth grandchild, a healthy baby girl, born May 1, 1994, to Kimberley and Art Schaafsma.

ALANA KIMBERLEY

is a little sister for Jessie Diana.

Proud grandparents are Joe and Jeanette Schaafsma of Victoria, B.C.

Great-grandmothers are "G.G." Diana Schaafsma of Victoria, B.C., oma Molenaar, de Amandelboom, Bilthoven, the Neth., oma Van Duyvenvoorde, Shalom Manor, Grimsby, Ont.

Andy and Nel Molenaar, 9093 Wright St., R.R. #16, Langley, BC V3A 8G6

Birthdays

GREIDANUS-TIERSMA:

We rejoice with our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

SUSAN GREIDANUS-TIERSMA

on the occasion of her 85th birthday on June 6, 1994, D.V.

We thank God for her witness, love, encouragement, and prayers. She is a precious gift to each of us.

Address: Summit Village, Suite 106, 10041-149 Street, Edmonton, AB T5P 4V7

Thank You

BOUWERS:

Thanks to our children, relatives and friends for making our 45th wedding anniversary so special. Thanks for all the cards, flowers and visits.

Henry and Gerda Bouwers.

Anniversaries

Norg Chatham
1949 May 19 1994

With praise and thankfulness to God we are happy to announce the 45th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents

JEEN (JIM) and ROELY AUKEMA
(nee MARTENS)

With our love and very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness together.

Floris & Shirley Aukema — Brampton, Ont.
Katherine, Mark
Ralph & Cynthia Aukema — Chatham, Ont.
Janessa, Andrew, Jolene
Trudy & Peter Schipper — Bradford, Ont.
Darryl, Melissa
Lena Aukema — Saugatuck, Mich.
Kevin
Ed & Janette Aukema — Chatham, Ont.
Rashelle, Samantha, Kevin
Rita & Bob Vriesema — Dresden, Ont.
Denise, Renee, Nicole

We invite friends and family to an open house to be held in the Fellowship Hall of the First Chr. Ref. Church, 17 Tweedsmuir Ave. East, Chatham, Ont., on May 28, 1994, from 2-4:30 p.m.

Home address: 39 Pembroke Cres., Chatham, ON N7L 2J3

1954 May 12 1994

With thankfulness to God, we joyfully announce the 40th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents

ANDY and PATRICIA HIEMSTRA
(nee ZEKVELD)

Congratulations and love from:

Nellie & John Bos — Nepean, Ont.
Joanna, Michael
Margaret & Herman Zwart — Bowmanville, Ont.
Tricia, Adrian, Calvin, Monica
Helen & Leonard Hordyk — Princeton, Ont.
John, Jacky, Daniel, Brenda, David, Suzanne
Arthur & Marcia Hiemstra — Peterborough, Ont.
Alisha, Christopher, Ashley

Address: R.R. #1, Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K2

Anniversaries

Congratulations to Jacob and Detje Haayema (nee Terpstra) on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary!

Ee, Friesland Smithers, B.C.
1934 June 2 1994

"Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!" (Ps. 106:1).

With thankfulness to our Heavenly Father, we hope to celebrate the 60th wedding anniversary of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents

JACOB and DETJE HAAYEMA
(nee TERPSTRA)

Their thankful offspring:

Clarence & Pearl Haayema — Williamsburg, Ont.
five children and seven grandchildren
Dick & Willy Haayema — Houston, B.C.
eight children and 13 grandchildren
Joyce (1975) & George Stad — Smithers, B.C.
five children and two deceased, one grandchild
Jane & Clarence Vanderschaaf — Smithers, B.C.
five children and 11 grandchildren
Janet & Tom Stad — Peers, Alta.
six children and six grandchildren
Sadie & Joe Posthuma — Smithers, B.C.
two children and two grandchildren
Sandra & Andy Meints — Houston, B.C.
six children and 1 deceased.

Home address: J. Haayema, Box 443, Smithers, BC V0J 2N0

Anniversaries

Rotterdam Townsend
1934 May 16 1994

Praise God for our parents

BEN HOFLAND
and
ELISABETH BERKENBOSCH HOFLAND

who, with God's blessings, have loved and supported each other through the storms and sunshine of 60 years of marriage. Their selfless, unfailing love for each other was our first, and best, lesson about God's love.

Lena & Henry Eising
Ellen & John Zandstra
Ed & Maja Hofland
Ben & Angela Hofland
Ralph & Gail Hofland

Also 21 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

The challenges of age and infirmity make their wedding text ever more meaningful: "I lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." (Ps. 121).

Accommodation

Accommodation available in London, Ont. Room or room and board. For information please call **(519) 453-9615.**

Classifieds

Anniversaries

Chatham 1949 May 20 1994 Chatham

With thankfulness to God, we celebrate with joy the 45th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents

HARRY and EVELYN RIEPMA
(nee AUKEMA)

Clare & Alma Riepma — Georgetown, Ont.
Teresa & Bill Renkema — Puerto Rico
Alice & Randy VanStempvoort — Chatham, Ont.
Betty & Ernie Kramer — Thamesville, Ont.
Shirley & Kirk Larsen — Decorah, Iowa
Emily & Eric Schuurman — Tillsonburg, Ont.
and 18 grandchildren.

We invite you to an open house at the First Chr. Ref. Church, 17 Tweedsmuir Ave., Chatham, from 2-4:30 p.m. on May 28, 1994.

Best wishes only.

"For Christ's love compels us" (2 Cor. 5:14a).

We are very thankful to our Lord that after May 5 we may celebrate our 40th anniversary of unity in him.

HANK and WILLEMIEN VERHOEFF
(nee VAN DER BIJL)

Paul & Coby (Wind)
Lies, Anya, Lance, Rudy
Anya & Ken (Dodd)
Jesse, Cameron
Stephen & Joyce (Meima)
Jordan, Julia
Margaret & Thane (Strandberg)
Madeline
David & Brenda (Andela)

Because of Willemien's war-trauma therapy, we live temporarily at Julianalaan 22, 2341 ER Oegstgeest, the Netherlands (phone or fax 011-31-71-177040).

Obituaries

John 11:25.

God called home His child

BETTIE PETRUSMA

on April 23, 1994, at the age of 60 years.

Loving mother and grandmother of:

Grace & Norm Groot — Burnaby, B.C.
Mike, Dave, Christina, James, Kristen, Matthew, Lynn
Wilma Van Wieren — Ferndale, Wash.
Nick, Austin, Lee
Richard & Kathie Van Wieren — St. Thomas, Ont.
Christopher, Gina
Astrid Van Wieren — Toronto, Ont.

Obituaries

1905 1994

On Jan. 1, 1994, the Lord called home our father, grandfather and great-grandfather

HENDRIK SMINK

in his 89th year.

1907 1994

and on April 21, 1994, the Lord also called home our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

JOHANNA SMINK (ROTHMAN)

in her 87th year.

Sadly missed by their children:
Ann & Adrian Vaane — Mount Brydges, Ont.
Aly Bruinink — Strathroy, Ont.
Johanna & George Goris — Mount Brydges, Ont.
Minnie Smink — Mount Brydges, Ont.
Lucy Smink — Mount Brydges, Ont.

Dear grandparents of 22 grandchildren and dear opa and oma of 43 great-grandchildren.

Also survived by one sister in the Netherlands and one sister in Orangeville, Ont.

"Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations" (Ps. 90:1).

Nov. 8, 1974 April 28, 1994

STEVEN THEODOOR SPEK

Through a car accident God took Steven home.

Psalm 23 was Steven's comfort and is ours as well. We will sadly miss him.

His parents Cornelis and Idsche Spek.

His brother Andrew and sister Judith.

Correspondence address: R.R. #2, Tiverton, ON N0G 2T0

Op 30 april 1994, heeft de Here, na een kortstondige ziekte van slechts enkele weken, onze vriendin en medelid

MRS. JEAN VAN MEEKEREN

uit ons midden door de dood weggenomen op de leeftijd van 80 jaar. Sterke de Here haar kinderen en kleinkinderen en laat het voor ons een roepstem zijn, "Gedenk te sterven." Dit was al het tweede lid dat ons in 1994 door de dood werd ontnomen.

Namens alle leden van onze club "Eventide", c/o Mrs. Klasien Muys, 17 Prince St., Kentville, NS B4N 1B7

Look for Peter and Marja on page 13...

Job Opportunities

Help wanted: An Eastern Ontario **dairy and cash crop farm** is looking for a preferably **Christian married man for full-time employment.** Person should have pleasant character, must be mechanically minded and experienced and careful with farm equipment. Good 3-bedroom house provided. For more information phone **(613) 399-3429 (evenings).**

DIRECTOR OF CHURCH MUSIC
part-time

First Christian Reformed Church of Chatham, Ont. is seeking a person to co-ordinate the music ministry within our congregation. Primary responsibilities include **organ playing (pipe)** and encouraging the use of musical gifts by members of the congregation. Approx. **10 hours a week**. For more information, please contact **George Rowaan, (519) 354-4342.**

Real Estate

Attractive family home near Christian schools in Ottawa, Ont. If you are considering a move to Ottawa or Kanata, please call or fax me for information on this excellent property: 3-bedrooms, hardwood floors, finished basement, double garage and large lot. Owner transferred. $171,900. **Call Gladys Baart, Century 21 John De Vries Ltd., at (613) 836-2570 or (613) 832-2090.**

Teachers

BRESLAU, ONT.:
Woodland Christian High School invites applications for a **definite** teaching position in **History/English** and a **possible** teaching position in **mathematics/sciences/computer studies.**

Please direct inquiries and applications to:

Gary Van Arragon, Principal
Woodland Christian High School
R.R.# 1, Breslau, Ont. N0B 1M0
Phone: (519) 648-2114
Fax: (519) 648-3402

BURNS LAKE, B.C.: Burns Lake Chr. School is seeking **three teachers** to take up the challenge of helping our school develop its potential in its second year of operation. Our school has multi-grade classrooms for primary/elementary grades, plus Kindergarten.

Please contact us at:

Burns Lake Chr. School
Box 574
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0

Teachers

CAMBRIDGE, Ont.: Cambridge Chr. School invites applications from qualified teachers for a **half time special education/resource position**, effective September 1994. Please send letter of application and resume to:

Andy Vander Ploeg, Principal
Cambridge Christian School
229 Myers Rd., Cambridge, ON N1R 7H3
Phone: (519) 623-2261
Fax: (519) 623-4042

COBOURG, Ont.: Opening for **part-time** (appr. 30%) **Grade 7-8** teacher with strengths in language, art, music and P.E. If you are creative, enjoy teaching and love young people, please send application to:

Henry Lise, Principal
Northumberland Chr. School
R.R. 5, Cobourg, ON K9A 4J8

DUNNVILLE, ONT.:
Dunnville Christian School invites applications for a **15% position** in the 1994/1995 school year. A background and qualifications in **art or music for grades 5-8** would be an asset.

Please address inquiries to:

Mr. R. Van Egmond, Principal
Dunnville Christian School
R.R.1 Dunnville, ON N1A 2W1

ORANGEVILLE, Ont.: Orangeville Chr. School invites applications for a **definite intermediate/remedial teaching position** (50%). The ability to teach instrumental music would be an asset. Please forward letter of application and resume to:

Mr. George Hoytema, Principal
P.O. Box 176
Orangeville, ON L9W 2Z6
Phone: (519) 941-3381

Vacations

We're looking in the **Calgary area** for an **exchange of vacation possibilities**. We offer our home in St. Catharines, Ont., or our car and tent trailer in exchange for a car and trailer or recreational vehicle for the last three weeks in July. We hope to travel through Alberta and BC. If interested, contact Bert and Alice Witvoet at (905) 684-3991 (after 5 p.m.) or at (905) 682-8311 (during office hours).

Summer Job Market

ST. CATHARINES, Ont.: 16-year-old student eager to work during summer months. Experienced babysitter but will consider any type of work. Please call Renee Numan at **(905) 937-6046.**

KINGSTON, Ont.:
18-year old student living in Kingston, Ont., wanting a summer job. Able and willing to train and work for any job. **Call Terry Smedes at (613) 544-6385 after 6 p.m.**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.: Alison Seinen, student at Calvin College looking for summer employment. Have had experience working with children, but am willing to consider any possibilities. **(616) 954-4929.**

University student in biology and environmental studies (25 years old), seeking summer employment in Niagara region. Six years secretarial experience, WordPerfect, PlanPerfect, DataPerfect, spreadsheet, AccPac, multi-lingual.
Please call 682-9068 (evenings)

MISSISSAUGA, Ont.: Paula Wubbenhorst (17 years old). Experience includes cash register operation, keyboarding and desktop publishing. Seeking employment in any of these areas. **Call (905) 826-2504.**

GEORGETOWN, Ont.:
Hardworking, physically active, bicycling fanatic **17-year old girl**, desperately looking for a summer job. I'm willing to do anything from farm work to child care, gardening, vacuuming, cooking, housework. You name it, I'll do it. **Call Andrea at (905) 877-9998.**

If you believe that honesty and integrity far outweigh political correctness, please read the following ad: **RBC student looking for summer employment** paying "Big Bucks". Willing to work hard for it. Tuition isn't cheap these days! Call Tim at:
(616) 669-9859 before May 7
(905) 934-3547 after May 7

CAMBRIDGE, Ont.: 17-year-old diesel technician student seeking employment on a dairy farm. Experienced in haying, worked on pig farm, and have worked in automotive and small engine fields. Own car. Adaptable, eager to work hard anywhere. **Chris Van Dixhoorn at (519) 623-9924.**

Classifieds

Personal

THE CONSULATE-GENERAL WOULD LIKE TO COME IN CONTACT WITH THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

van AGTEREN, Mrs. Mina Rolina, born February 28, 1926 in Beilen.

ANDRINGA, H.J., born June 5, 1946, last known address in Canada: 3535 East 45th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.

van ARRAGON, G.J. , born August 14, 1942, last known address in Canada: 67 Loraine Drive, St. Catherines, Ontario.

BERGHUIS, Maria Elisabeth Irene, born May 14, 1945, last known address in Canada: 940 Caledonia Road, Apt. 708, Toronto, Ontario.

DEKKER, Mr. Johannes A., born May 17, 1960, last known address in Canada: 323 Williams Avenue, Milton, Ontario.

EISING, M., born December 3, 1955, last known address in Canada: 640 St. Mary's Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

FRENKEN, Mr. Joannes Maria C., born October 25, 1929 in Roggel, last known address in the Netherlands: Neerderweg 4, Roggel, immigrated to Canada: June 28, 1955.

HOOGSTRATEN, Mr. Simon, born August 16, 1929 in Leiden, last known address in the Netherlands: v.d. Bouwmanweg 46, Leiderdorp, immigrated to Canada: July 15, 1954.

LEURS, Mrs. Margaretha Johanna, born June 21, 1929 in Amsterdam, last known address in the Netherlands: Past Jansenstraat 20, Weesp, immigrated to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada: September 18, 1953.

MAKELA, Saskia, born December 29, 1973 in Misscula, U.S.A., immigrated to Canada: March 26, 1993.

van de POL, Mr. Jan Thomas, born August 10, 1929, last known address in the Netherlands: Weimarstraat 401, 's-Gravenhage, immigrated to Canada: May 16, 1958.

van SABBEN, Mrs., last known address in Canada: 395 Somerset Street, Ottawa.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE NETHERLANDS,
1 DUNDAS STREET W., STE. 2106
TORONTO, ONTARIO M5G 1Z3

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LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD PEOPLE... CALL
Lynda Van Der Kooi
(705) 742-3165

Summer Job Market

PORT PERRY, Ont.: 17-year old student at Durham Chr. High School, able and willing to train at any job. Experience in farm work and one summer of construction work. Call Jeremy Stevens at **(905) 985-3962.**

WILLOWDALE, Ont.: Student graduating with Honours Economics degree, looking for summer employment in business or finance, but will work at anything. Lawn maintenance experience. **Call (416) 221-3396.**

HAMILTON, Ont.: 19-year-old college bound male seeking summer job. Available June 25. Willing to do indoor or outdoor work, ranging from coalminer to astronaut. **Call Fred at (905) 383-0119** in **Hamilton**, Ont.

Summer Job Market

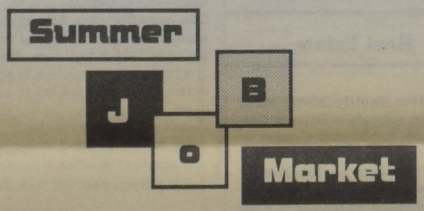
ANCASTER, Ont.: Pre-seminary student at Redeemer College needs work for summer. Looking for jobs in home renovations, decks, trim carpentry, or floorcovering installations. 20 years experience, have operated own business. Willing to sub-contract from home builders. Have van and own tools. I'm 38 years old with wife and four children. Phone **(905) 648-9134** ask for George Holthof.

Summer Job Market

HAMILTON, Ont.: 23-year old student graduating with a bachelor of Christian Studies degree in business administration seeking employment anywhere. 3 years secretarial experience. Working knowledge of ACCPac, WordPerfect 5.1,Lotus 1-2-3 and Ultimate Database.Also have experience as a health care aide. Call Marilyn at **(905) 389-3072.**

Miscellaneous

Hire a student!



This summer why not hire a student to help you ease your workload and get some extra things done? Beginning March 25, students will advertise their skills in our Summer Job Market section of the Classifieds. Please consider hiring one of them.

Some students may be hired when you call them. Please be patient. Sometimes they are hired before we can cancel their ad.

FACULTY OPENING AT CALVIN COLLEGE

beginning September 1995
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC:
CHORAL / THEORY

Calvin College seeks faculty members who affirm the Christian faith as expressed by the Reformed creeds and have academic and personal qualifications for teaching and scholarship. Applications from North American minorities are strongly encouraged. Calvin College is an equal opportunity employer. Interested persons should contact the Music Department by phone at (616) 957-6253 or write:

Dr. John Worst, chairman
Department of Music, Calvin College
3201 Burton St. S.E.
Grand Rapids MI 49546

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For information write or phone to:
Len & Rita Bette, Alton Lodges
459 Mosley St.
Wasaga Beach, ON L0L 2P0
(705) 429-2420

CHRIST FOR RUSSIA

Needed: copies of (the out of print) L. Berkhof's **Summary of Christian Doctrine**, as the English counterpart of the Russian translation. To be used as a text in the Bible School Seminaries beginning in the Russias. Please send to:

Brandt & Lavonne Bruxvoort
2590 So. Marion
Denver, CO 80210

Christ for Russia:
Duayne Sjaardema, Pres.
James Ritter, Newsletter Sec.
Dr. Robert Reitsema
(Bernice Jean Hoogsteen), Vicar
Ronald Bolas, Treas.
Rev. Nick Vogelzang, Exec. Dir.

Immediate opening for

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Hamilton District Christian High School has an enrollment that has grown to over 400 students, with a capacity for 500. Join an energetic professional staff within a strong supportive community.

Funds need to be raised outside of the regular operating budget to reduce the debt. The challenge is great and needs full-time attention. If you are up to the challenge, and this full-time position interests you, please send your letter of inquiry and resume **before June 1, 1994**, to:

Clarence Bick, Secretary
241 Wilson St. E.
Ancaster, ON L9G 2B8
Phone: (905) 648-9559; Fax: (905) 648-8185

Hamilton District Christian High School

Seeking a Pastor

The **Christian Reformed Church** of **Georgetown, Ont.**, is seeking an ordained pastor to work in team ministry, leading us in preaching, teaching and pastoral care, with proven ability for and commitment to youth ministry. A church profile is available upon request. Contact the **Calling Committee, Georgetown Chr. Ref. Church, P.O. Box 45, Georgetown, ON L7G 4T1.**

Classifieds

For Sale

personalized

DUTCH DELFT BLUE style wall plaques

- birth • graduation
- Dutch roots story
- wedding (anniversary)
- immigrant ships

ask for catalogue

publishers of

the Windmill

your Dutch-English bi-weekly

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P.O.Bag 9033, Surrey, BC V3T 4X3

(604) 597-2144

fax (604) 597-8243

Job Opportunities

The King's University College requires the services of a person with strong administrative and systems skills to fill the position of

REGISTRAR

This senior administrative post involves supervision of the student information system as well as admissions, financial aid and recruitment. Qualifications include academic administrative experience; a baccalaureate degree; extensive experience with computer-based information systems and assent to the College's Statement of Faith and Mission Statement. Salary range: $40,000-50,000.

The King's University College is a Christian liberal arts college offering its own B.A. and B.Sc. degrees. Interested parties should send letter of application, resume, and names of three references to:

Dr. S. Keith Ward, Vice President Academic
The King's University College
9125-50 St., Edmonton, AB T6B 2H3
Phone: (403) 465-3500
Deadline for application: May 31, 1994.

THE KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Christian University Education

The King's University College is an equal opportunity employer, but in accordance with Canadian Employment and Immigration regulations, this advertisement is directed to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

Job Opportunities

***Christian Courier* is in need of a**

JOURNALIST

to work out of our St. Catharines office.

Please send application and resume to the editor. Training and experience is desirable.

Bert Witvoet, Editor
Christian Courier
4-261 Martindale Road
St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1
Tel.: (905) 682-8311; Fax: (905) 682-8313

Events

The Board of Directors of the
CHATHAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
invites former students, colleagues, and friends
to an

Open House

in honour of

Aneta Zondervan & Keith Groen

as they each celebrate
twenty-five years of teaching
at Chatham Christian Elementary School.
Friday, June 3, 1994
7:30-9:30 PM
Chatham Christian High School
90 Park Ave. East
Chatham, Ontario

Events

40th Anniversary
Christian Reformed Church Vernon, B.C.

We would like to invite all friends, former members and pastors to join us for our "Celebration Weekend" in the beautiful Okanagan Valley with special activities on **Friday (Aug. 19), Saturday (Aug. 20)**, and **Sunday (Aug. 21).**

For an information package please write to:
Anniversary Committee
c/o Christian Reformed Church
3605-12th Street
Vernon, BC V1T 3S7
or phone: (604) 549-1746

Miscellaneous

Summer Job Market

Attention: All Students

We know that many of you are thinking about summer jobs at this time.
As in previous years, *Christian Courier* will carry the Summer Job Market section in the Classifieds. We urge you to check this section until **May 27**.

Send us your announcement, and include name, age, address, phone number, experience and type of work you are seeking. This service is free of charge. We have only one request: Please cancel the ad as soon as you have found employment so that you don't use up valuable space needlessly.

Good job hunting!

Stan de Jong
Manager

Miscellaneous

World War II
Did you live in Zwanenburg, the Netherlands?

On **February 19, 1945**, the village of Zwanenburg, the Neth., was isolated from the outside world because of a large-scale raid by the German occupational forces. As a result of this "razzia," 310 Zwanenburg residents were shipped off to German labor camps. But all 310 eventually returned!

On Saturday, **February 18, 1995**, a reunion is being organized of the still living "oud Zwanenburgers." The problem, however, is that about 60 of them emigrated to either Canada or the U.S.A. Their addresses are being sought. If you are one of them, please write to:

Tini & Cor Lücke
P.O. Box 146
1160 AC ZWANENBURG, The Netherlands

Miscellaneous

Maranatha Christian Reformed Church
St. Catharines, Ontario

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

If you are vacationing in the beautiful Niagara Falls area, join us on Sunday at Maranatha CRC, 301 Scott St., St. Catharines, Ont., at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. If you are a CRC minister willing to fill our vacant pulpit during your vacation, please call **Sid Miedema at (905) 937-0314.**

Christian Reformed Church
Emo, Ontario

Ministers vacationing or passing through the beautiful Rainy River District, who are willing to lead us in worship, are invited to contact **Emo CRC, Emo, Ont., c/o John Kamerman, (807) 482-2842 or Nick Schryvershof (807) 274-9234.** Lodging provided.

Classifieds/Events

NIAGARA REGION, Ont.:
NEED spring cleaning, lawn cutting, eavestrough cleaning, small painting jobs, or driveway sealing?
Call MR. ODD JOBS
(905) 984-8397
Owned/operated by university student. MR. ODD JOBS developed out of frustration with current job market. Thank you for your support.

Summer Job Market

Look for our Business Directory next week...

Bed & Breakfast

BED & BREAKFAST
Beautiful Niagara Falls
A pleasant 15 min. walk to the Falls. Friendly home, nice rooms. Superb breakfast. Dutch spoken.
Mike & Joan Havinga
(905) 358-3534

CIDA photo: David Barbour, Thailand

(NC)—Family life in north-east Thailand. The United Nations has declared 1994 the International Year of the Family. Canada's development aid program includes programs to reduce child deaths from diarrhea, to reduce maternal death during childbirth and to address the problem of family violence.

JOIN THE C C SPRING 1994 CAMPAIGN

Many magazines and tabloids in Canada are struggling and C C is no exception! If each subscriber would gain us **one** new subscriber before the end of May 1994, we would, in one wonderful swoop, be where we were 10 years ago. Look around you — you'll see signs of new life everywhere. Why not blossom with the lilacs and hatch with the robins? Convince only **one** person or **one** family that **Christian Courier** is worth subscribing to. Send us this coupon today and we will send you a copy of **Building on the Rock**, Rev. Henry Van Andel's insightful meditations on Christ's Sermon on the Mount.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE

Yes, Please enter the following subscription.

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❑ One year (44 issue) for just $34.95 Cdn* or $26.95 US
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N.B.:
a) offer not valid for subscription renewals
b) cheque for subscription must be enclosed
c) offer expires May 31, 1994

❑ Please send Rev. Van Andel's book to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov./State: _____ Code: _____

Clip this out and send to:
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St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1

For Sale

1 Cantor Classical Organ $4,995
1 Eminent Organ $2,995

Phone: (905) 455-0797

Job Opportunities

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

When you fax your display or classified ads to us (particularly obituaries), please type them and check spelling BEFORE you transmit the text.
Thank you.

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

Secretary to the Board and Activities Co-ordinator

We are a significant voice in the Ontario farm community and are experiencing major growth in our support community. We need a self-motivated individual with a positive Christian commitment who will become the co-ordinating hub of a dynamic organization.

Qualifications:
* post secondary education
* knowledge of agriculture
* proven organizational skills
* computer literacy
* management experience
* knowledge of the rural community
* writing and presentation skills
* willingness and ability to travel

Please apply to Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, 115 Woolwich Street, Second Floor, Guelph, ON N1H 2V1, Fax: (519) 824-1835.

Calendar

May 18 "Hollandse Dag" in **York,** Ont. Speaker: Rev. H.R. De Bolster.

May 18 "The Ambassadors" homecoming concert, 8 p.m., First CRC, **Hamilton,** Ont.

May 18 Mini convention celebrating 40th anniversary of the Bowmanville-Quinte-Ottawa region of the Can. Fed. of Chr. Ref. Women, at 9:15 a.m., Days Inn, **Kingston**, Ont. Speakers: Dr. Willis Van Groningen and Rev. Devona Wiederick, Tickets $16. Order by May 1 from S. Tadema (613) 384-3431.

May 19 Special mission emphasis meeting, 8 p.m., Immanuel CRC, **Hamilton**, Ont. Speaker: Rev. Wm. Van Tol, director World Missions Int. Also featuring the "Immanuel Praise Team."

May 20-23 Young Calvinist Federation's 20th anniversary all-Ontario convention, hosted by Niagara League, at Brock University, **St. Catharines**, Ont. Info.: Tina VanGeest (905) 892-1429.

May 20-24 "Reformed Engaged Encounter" weekend at the Pearce Williams Christian Centre, **Iona Station**, Ont. Info.: (905) 935-6875.

May 24 Organ concert by Jonathan Oldengarm, 12 noon, St. James Anglican Cathedral, **Toronto,** Ont. Admission free.

May 28 Graduation ceremonies, 2 p.m., Redeemer College, **Ancaster**, Ont. Speaker: Dr. John Redekop on "What makes a college Christian." President Rev. Henry R. De Bolster will also be recognized.

May 28 Annual ABC sale, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Shalom Manor, **Grimsby,** Ont. Breakfast from 8-10 a.m. Lunch from 11a.m.-1 p.m. Come and join us!

May 29 City-wide hymn-sing, 8 p.m., First CRC, **Sarnia,** Ont.

May 29 Dutch worship service, led by Rev. Lammert Slofstra, 3 p.m. CRC **Ancaster,** Ont.

June 3 Open house for Aneta Zondervan and Keith Groen, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Chatham Chr. High School, **Chatham**, Ont.

June 6-10 "Milk & Honey Summer Festival," a Christian vacation experience focussing on the theme, "Not by Bread Alone." At Redeemer College, **Ancaster**, Ont. Call Janet at (905) 648-2131.

June 8 Twenty-fifth anniversary "Hollandse Dag," 10 a.m., Community Centre, **Moorefield**, Ont. Speaker: Rev. L. Schaafsma. Take your own lunch and cup along!

Comment

World news bytes

Carl D. Tuyl

So we all had our *tete-a-tete* with the Receiver General via the tax return forms. I hope it was a friendly encounter for you all. A decidedly unfriendly encounter took place in Halifax, where angry unionized construction workers had their *tete-a-tete* with the Nova Scotia legislature and Premier Dr. John Savage. The workers were protesting proposed legislation that would open up construction jobs for non-unionized workers.

★ ★ ★

The Anglican Church of Canada is hoisting the red flag with a dollar sign on it. The denomination must trim 10 per cent from its $26-million operating budget. Among denominations, even the rich get poorer. The Rev. Gerald Walton writes in his weekly column in Kingston's *Whig-Standard*: "Today many religious leaders are killing themselves trying to bring back the things that used to be: packed churches and overflowing offering plates. They need to revise their angle of vision, move from despair to hope. Now that fewer come to church, clergy have more time to do what hardly anyone else is doing: study theology.

★ ★ ★

Remember the promise that this current Parliament would be an example of courteousness, and the sittings would be dripping with politeness? Well, you can file that promise in the compost heap. Insults are flying across the isles like confetti at a wedding. And don't think Reformers are blushing bystanders. They dish it out in heaps. Even our Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps, not known for charming the pearl out of an oyster in the House, described the atmosphere in the House as "bilious," a world which Funk & Wagnalls says describes an excess of bile. There you have it: we have a bilious Parliament.

★ ★ ★

Bloc-ers are up in arms about possible review of the infamous drug patent bill. That act favored multinational pharmaceutical companies, many of them housed around Montreal.

★ ★ ★

There are more complaints directed at Ottawa than there are frogs in a swamp. Ontario is complaining about not getting its fair share of federal money; British Columbia has a whole list of complaints about the feds' treatment of the province, and former provincial Liberal leader Gordon Wilson has started a new political party out there which will advocate B.C. separatism. Just what we needed.

★ ★ ★

Let's also have some good news from B.C.: when the provincial government rented St. John the Divine church hall in Victoria to hand out welfare cheques, church members decided to make the process as hospitable as possible. Volunteers and other area churches were encouraged to help serve refreshments and welcome the 1,500 people expected. Ten churches participated. B.C. Social Services officials, who had expected a stressful day, said afterwards that the process was relaxed and pleasant.

★ ★ ★

The PC-ers in Manitoba's provincial legislature wobbled precariously at the precipice of defeat. The government's $5.4 billion budget needed the Speaker's vote to be passed. Premier Filmon will have to call an election by September 1995.

★ ★ ★

A 13-year-old girl from a youth home in a place called Titusville attacked and threatened to kill a bus attendant after the woman refused to give her a good behavior stamp. Guess she can kiss that "Student of the Week" award goodbye too, eh?

★ ★ ★

Islam is now the third largest religious community in Germany, with more than two million members. That statistic has led the country's commissioner for foreigners to call for intensive inter-religious dialogue. She has also proposed that Islamic religious education be offered at Germany's state schools. Similar proposals are being voiced by Muslims in the Netherlands. Serbs in the former Yugoslavia are still in the medieval stance of defending Europe against Islam, while Muslims in Western Europe are becoming part of the religious mosaic.

★ ★ ★

The voting in South Africa called for big fat headlines and colored pictures in the press. The Rwanda tragedy was also headline news. In Paris (Oh, to be in Paris in the spring!) the PLO and Israel signed an agreement which gave the Palestinians authority to set taxes, control trade and regulate banks under self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region.

★ ★ ★

WWII D-Day veterans really have to fight for some room and recognition in the upcoming commemoration of the landing. First, some twit cancelled the reservations of Canadian veterans; now the mayor of the village of Sainte Mere-Eglise does not want the veteran parachutists to jump where they were dropped in 1944. The jump interferes with His Worship's planned festivities. Maybe he doesn't yet understand that without these fellows there would be no festivities.

★ ★ ★

The Canadian dollar is not faring well on the world's markets. It takes more than two dollars in most Western European countries to buy a cup of coffee. Take a thermos along when you go there.

★ ★ ★

Former U.S. President Nixon was laid to rest in California. There was a continuous chorus of eulogies with nary a world about his uncouth expletive-deleted vocabulary or his forced withdrawal from the White House. Even the Rev. Billy Graham joined in the can-

tata of praise.

★ ★ ★

Soon the hockey finals will be over, and we will not have to wait for the evening news anymore. So in the meantime, just read *Christian Courier* and you will be well informed.

Carl Tuyl is chaplaincy co-ordinator in Canada for the Christian Reformed Church and is a member of the Ontario Multifaith Council on Spiritual and Religious Care.

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News

United Church renewers plan their next move

'Liberalism in the church is passé,' Oxford prof tells conference

Graham Scott and Irene Bom

HAMILTON, Ont. — "Liberalism in the church has been a failure because it has become dogmatic, out of touch, parasitic and tied to a culture that is already passing."

That was the message that British professor Alister McGrath had for the 400 renewal-minded United Church members at the third Faithfulness Today gathering in Hamilton April 22-24.

McGrath called for a look behind and ahead. "The Renaissance started with its discovery of classical culture; the United Church could start, for example, with the Wesleys and ask what it could say that no other group could. But as one looks at the past one must face the future and that means rediscovery of evangelism."

The Oxford University prof added that the church must now shift its emphasis from maintenance to mission.

'We're not one-issue people. What is really at stake is a view of Scripture.'

PHOTO:COURTESY FELLOWSHIP MAGAZINE

Panelists Don Faris (l) and his wife chat with Reginald Bibby at the recent Faithfulness Today conference.

Toned down

According to John Trueman, head of the Community of Concern group that led the conference, the mood has toned down since the first "very political and controversial" gathering in 1990.

That conference rallied over 700 members eager to be heard before the General Council of the United Church tackled the question of ordained practising homosexuals in the summer.

When the council passed the "yes" vote, many congregations left the United Church and numbers at the biennial conference fell.

Since then renewers have changed focus. Community of Concern is currently fighting to bring the United Church hierarchy down a notch so that it can hear the voices of people in the pews.

"We are aiming for direct election of commissioners to General Council," says Trueman. Now, delegates to that main decision-making body are elected through a complex three-tier process that is weighted in favor of clergy.

"We're not one-issue people. What is really at stake is a view of Scripture," Trueman adds.

Panel tackles future

At this year's conference, a panel featuring controversial author Don Faris, sociologist Reginald Bibby and United Church moderator Stan McKay tackled the subject of the United Church — past, present and future. Dr. Faris, author of *Homosexual Challenge* (originally *Trojan Horse*), criticized the denomination for ordaining practising homosexuals, for putting personal experience on a par with biblical authority and for affirming other religions at the expense of Jesus' uniqueness. He said these moves have made the present church unworthy of a rich and vibrant past.

Moderator McKay countered that the United Church was born out of compromise and that it was now between memory and hope. Humility and truth are signs of how we understand the mystery of the Spirit, he stressed.

Bibby challenged the United Church to put the homosexuality debate behind itself and to get on with feeding the current spiritual hunger in mysteries like life after death. Teens and adults alike believe in the supernatural. Sixty per cent of 15-19 year-olds say they have spiritual needs. The failure to capitalize on this hunger shows the ineptness of religious organizations in Canada today, said Bibby.

Punctured safe sex

Controversial author William Gairdner traced the war against the family from Plato to Rousseau to socialist Sweden and into Canada. He attacked the sex education curriculum of the Toronto Board of Education.

Obstetrician Stephen Genuis joined in on the criticism of the safe sex message by puncturing what he called the politically correct promises of salvation by condom.

Workshops featured Ottawa minister Allen Churchill, retired Nepal missionary Dr. Helen Huston and homosexuality therapist Elizabeth Moberly. Topics included church growth, euthanasia and issues in the public school system.

The Community of Concern spearheaded the conference with moral support from the three other United Church renewal movements — Church Alive, the National Alliance of Covenanting Congregations and the United Church Renewal Fellowship.

Thinkbit

"None of us is as smart as all of us together."

Don Ratzlaff

Graham Scott is pastor of Appleby United Church in Burlington, Ont., and editor of Theological Digest and Outlook.

News Digest

Edited by Irene Bom

Tonya Harding says sinner's prayer

PORTLAND, Ore. (EP) — Olympic skater Tonya Harding, infamous for her attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan, was a recent surprise visitor to First Church of the Nazarene in this city.

Throughout most of the service, Harding sat unnoticed in the balcony with Stephanie Quintero, with whom she lives, and Quintero's family.

But according to the *Portland Oregonian*, news of her presence spread quickly as she rose and went forward to accept Christ during an invitation at the end of the service.

Gary Henecke, pastor of the church, said Harding told him, "I need to pray." Henecke and Harding talked about God and salvation, then walked to the altar, where Harding said a simple sinner's prayer: "I have sinned and I need your forgiveness and I want to live my life for you and I accept you as my Savior."

Henecke said it was the first time Harding had been in his church. His sermon had the theme: "Regardless of the scars of life, Christ can give you a new beginning."

Henecke said he believes Harding was sincere. "I got no feeling of staging."

Appeal for a glimpse of the past

DEVENTER, Netherlands — The society *Oud Monnickendam* is looking for pictures and motion pictures taken of Monnickendam, Volendam and Marken before 1965. The society hopes that many visitors to these Dutch towns will send packages filled with snapshots, flicks, postcards, tickets of boats and tramcars and the like. Anyone who sends in material will receive a picture of old Monnickendam. Send to: Oud Monnickendam, p/a Plat, Kannenburg 215, 7423 AB Deventer, the Netherlands. (Tel.: 31-5700-52091)